MYSTIC

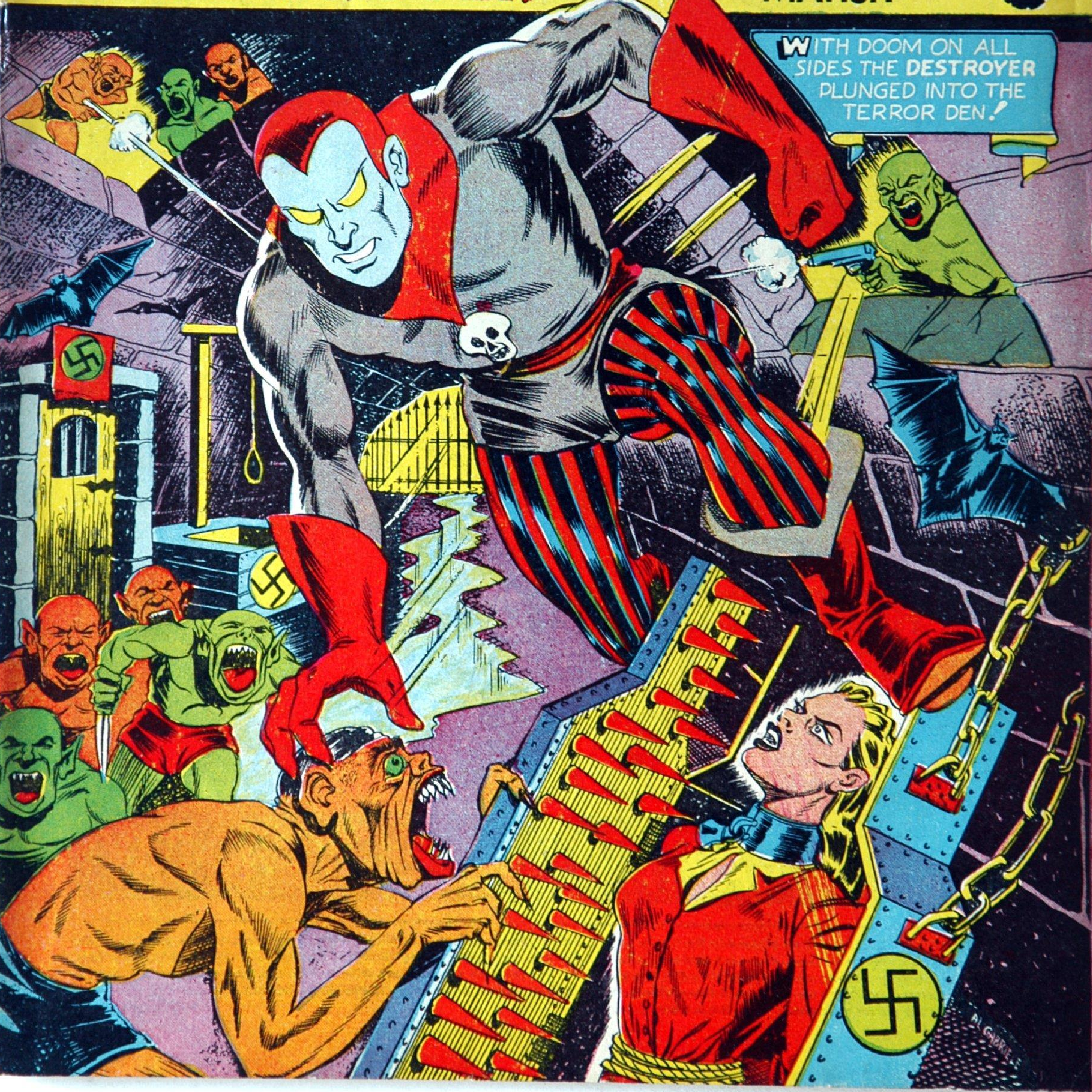
STARRING
THE SENSATIONAL
FIGHTER OF DICTATORS
THE MIGHTY DESTROYER

NO. 8

COMICS

MARCH

10¢


WITH DOOM ON ALL SIDES THE DESTROYER PLUNGED INTO THE TERROR DEN!
AL GABRIELE

Still on top!

EACH MONTH MORE AMERICAN READERS ARE PROCLAIMING CAPTAIN AMERICA THE KING OF THE Comics!

AND STORIES LIKE THESE ARE THE REASONS WHY

SYMPHONY OF TERROR!

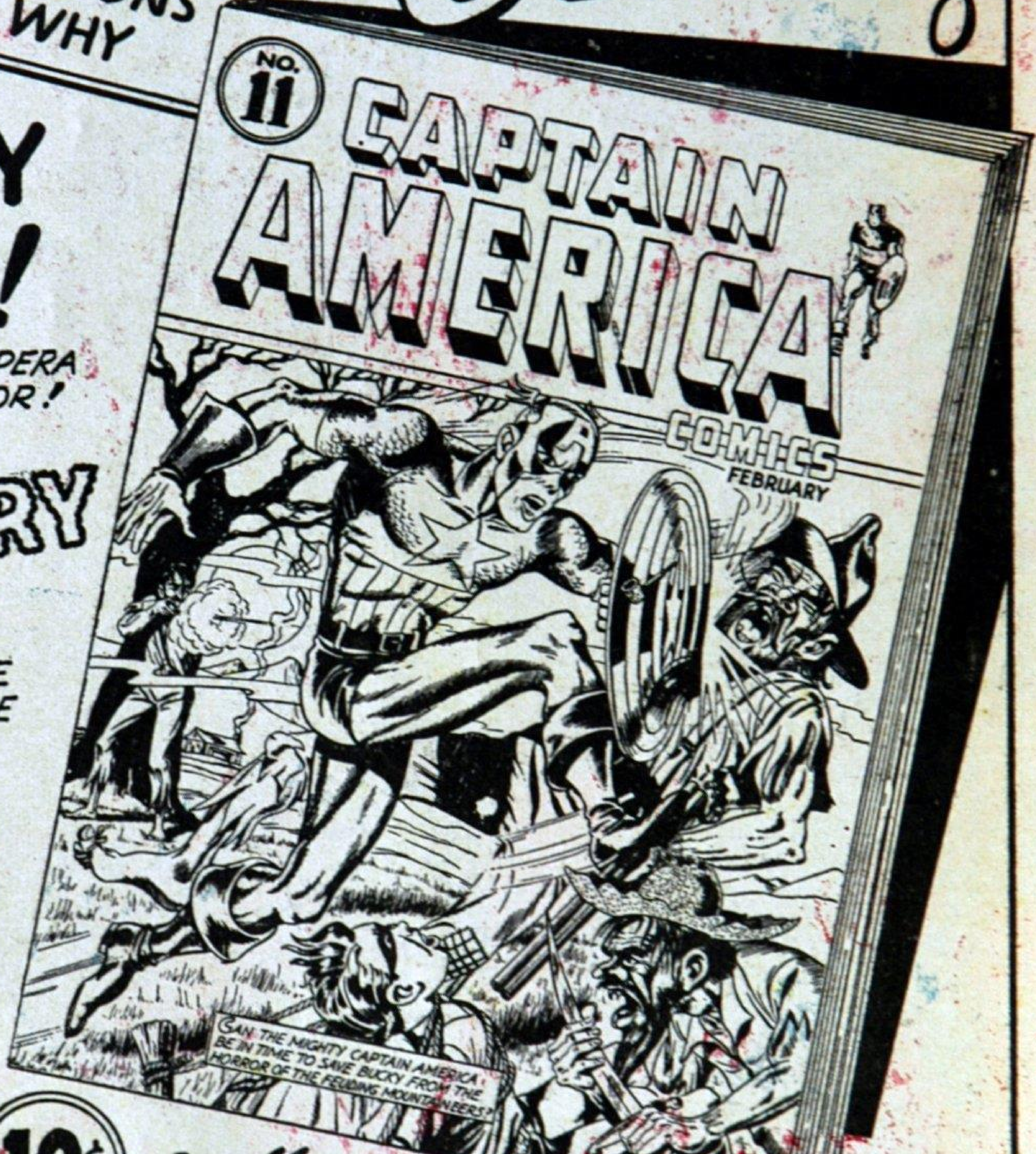
A MAD KILLER TURNS AN OPERA HOUSE INTO A DEN OF TERROR!

SQUAD OF MYSTERY

IMAGINE CAPTAIN AMERICA'S SURPRISE TO FIND A NAZI DIVISION IN THE ARMY OF UNCLE SAM!

THE FEUD MURDERS!

FOLLOW CAPTAIN AMERICA AND BUCKY AS THEY PLUNGE INTO THE MYSTERIOUS BACK-WOODS TO UNCOVER THE STRANGEST ADVENTURE EVER TO MEET THEIR STARTLED GAZE!


NO. 11
CAPTAIN AMERICA
COMICS
FEBRUARY
CAN THE MIGHTY CAPTAIN AMERICA BE IN TIME TO SAVE BUCKY FROM THE HORROR OF THE FEUDING MOUNTAINEERS?

10¢ At all NEWSSTANDS

GET YOUR COPY OF CAPTAIN AMERICA NO. 11 TO-DAY

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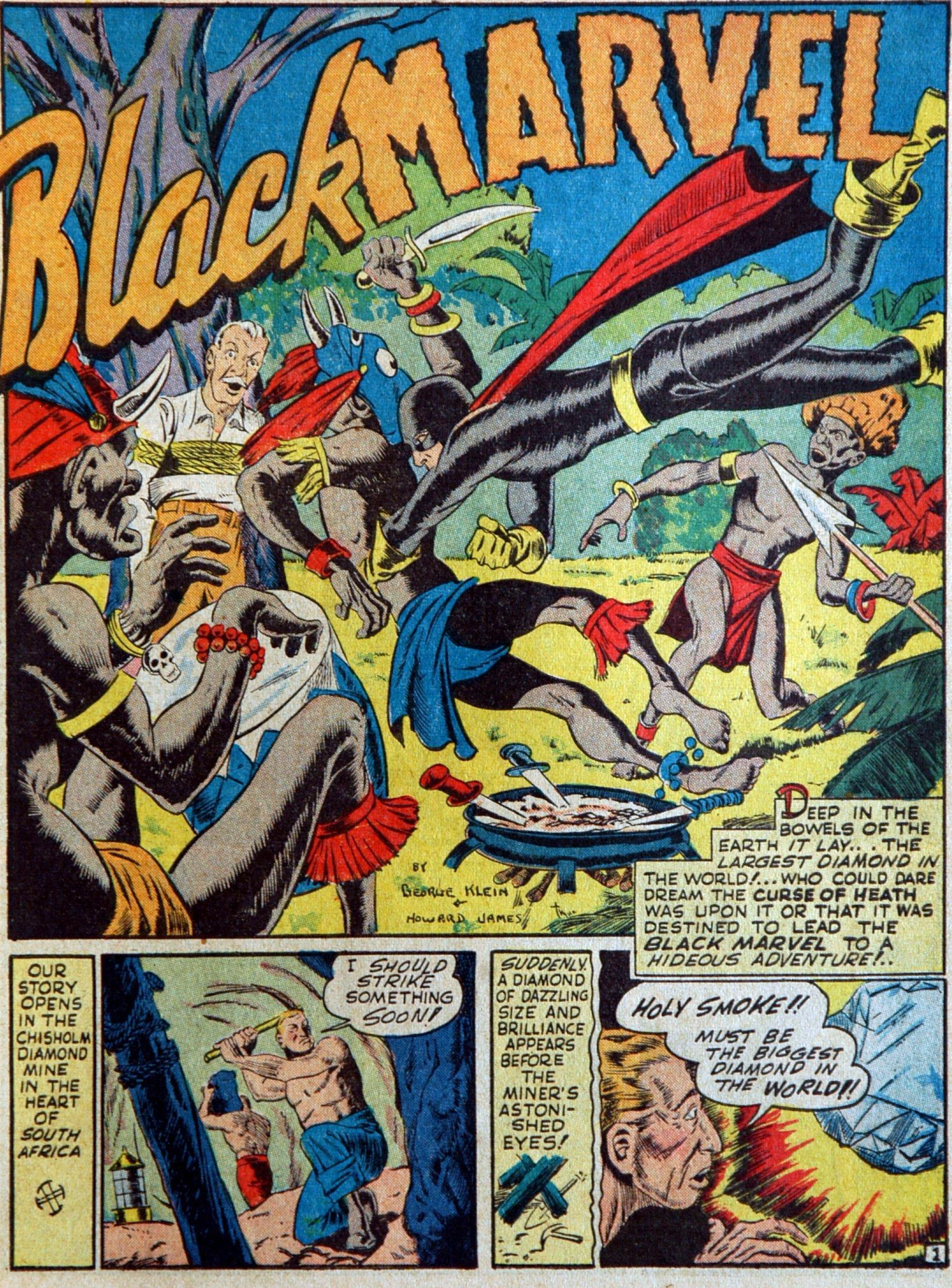
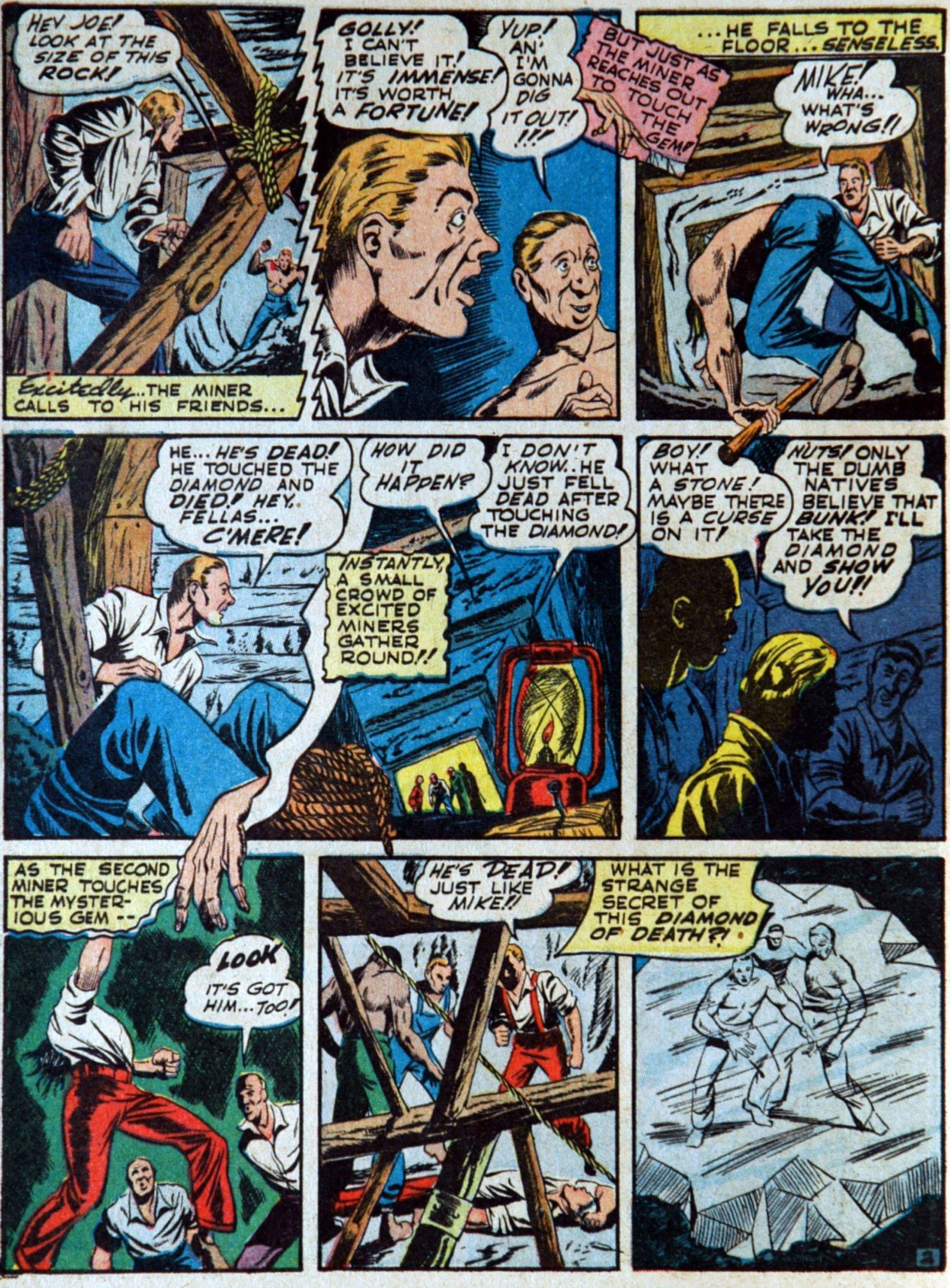
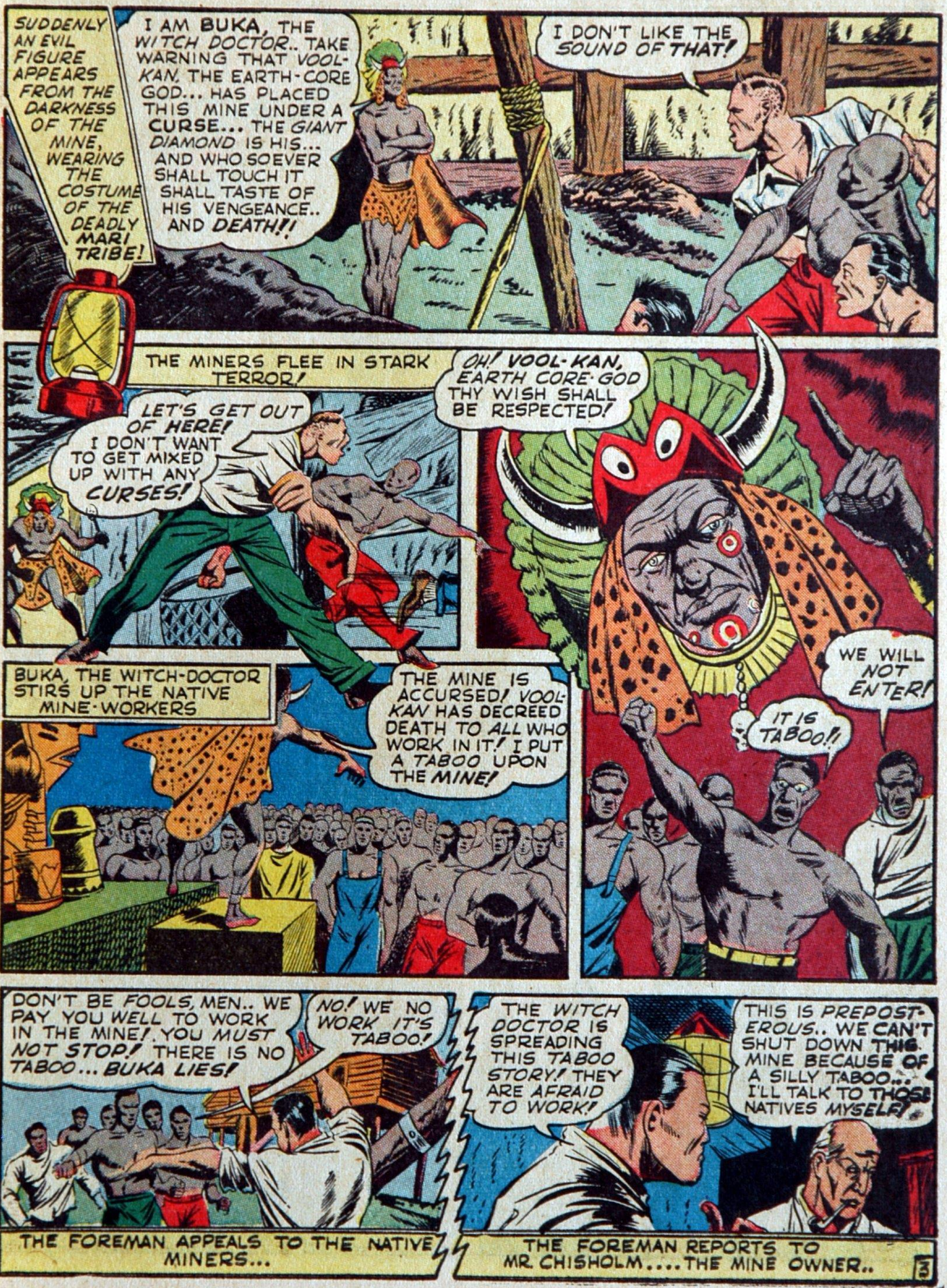
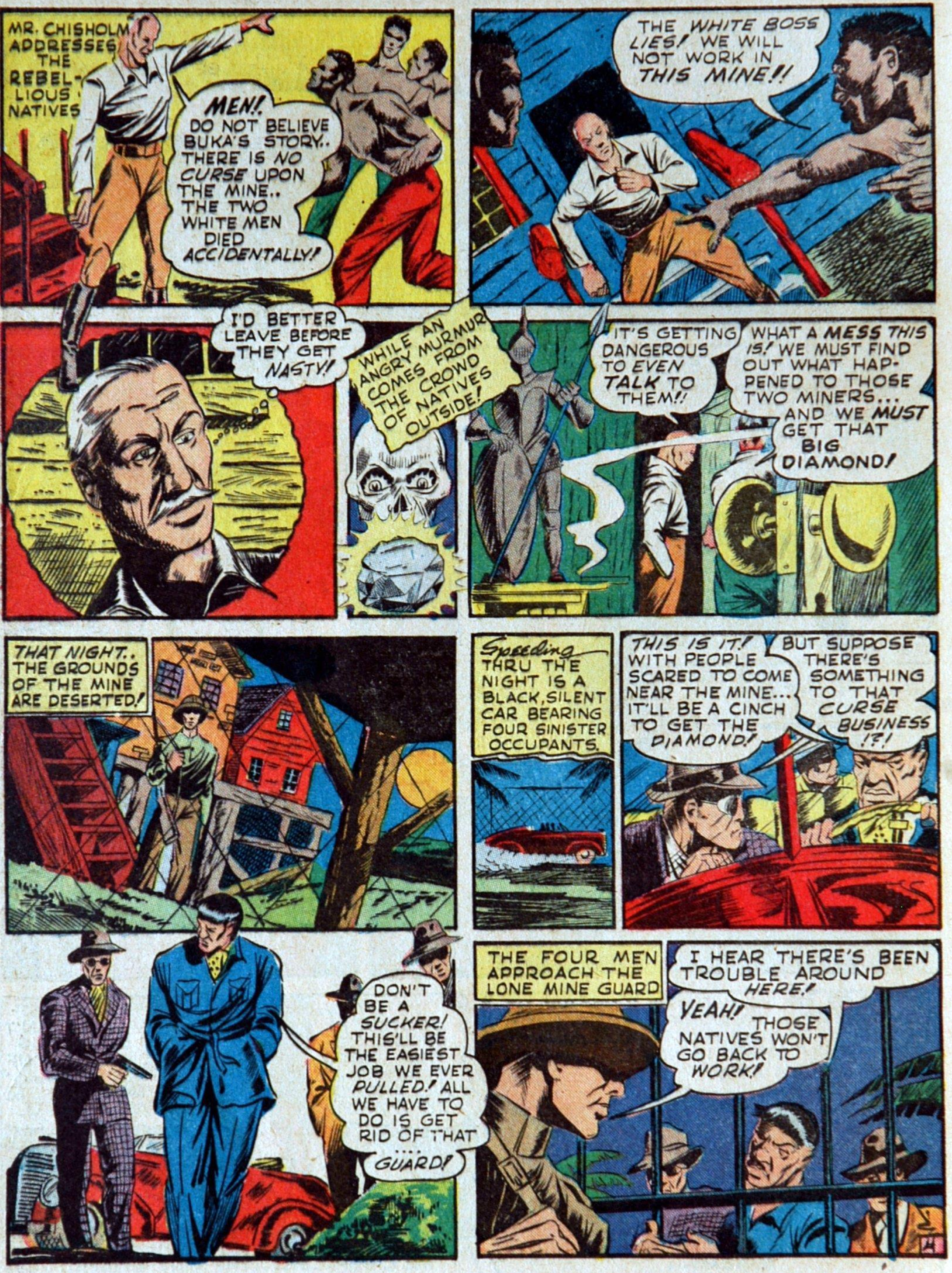
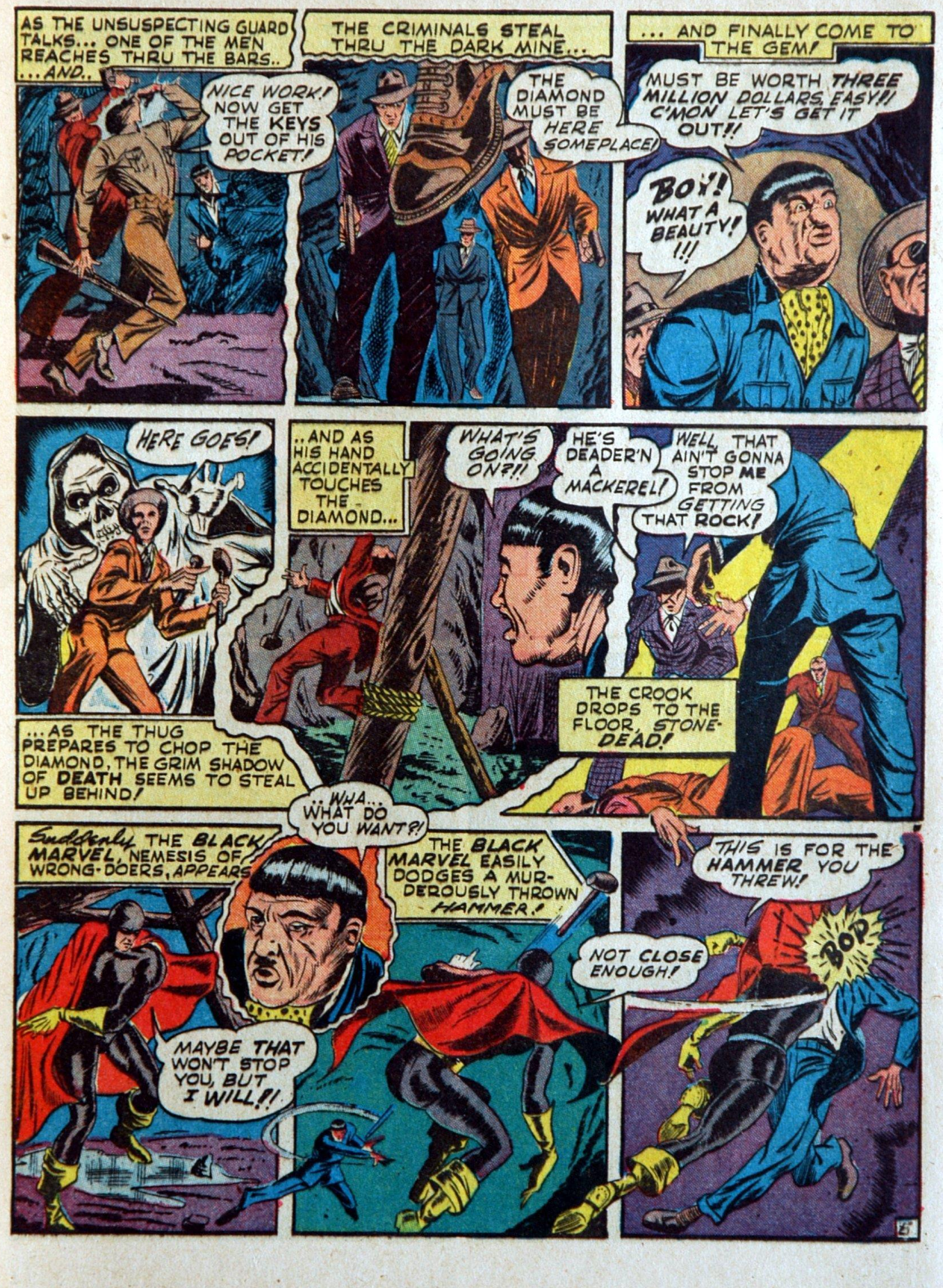
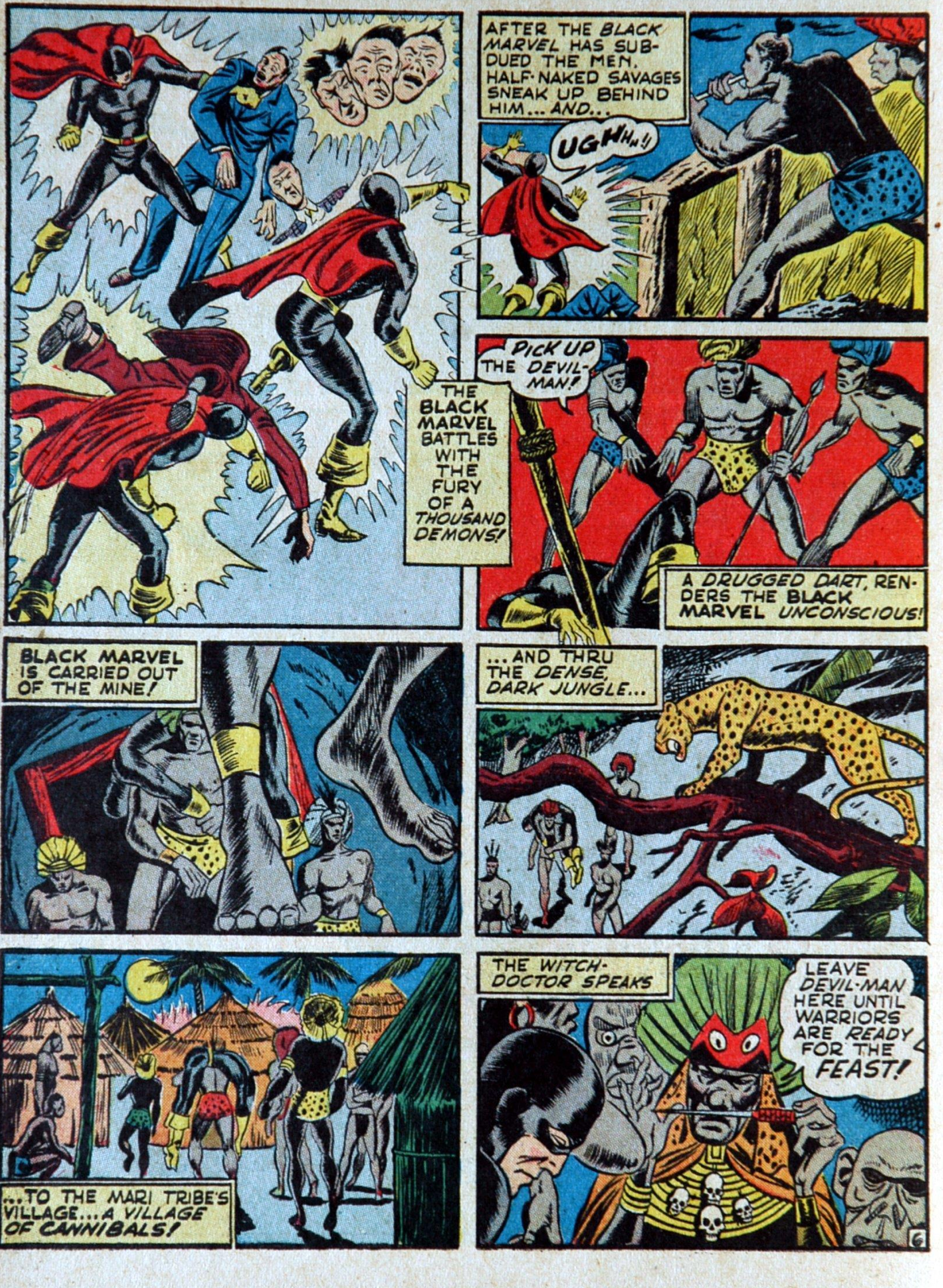

BLACK MARVEL
BY GEORGE KLEIN & HOWARD JAMES
DEEP IN THE BOWELS OF THE EARTH IT LAY.. THE LARGEST DIAMOND IN THE WORLD!.. WHO COULD DARE DREAM THE CURSE OF HEATH WAS UPON IT OR THAT IT WAS DESTINED TO LEAD THE BLACK MARVEL TO A HIDEOUS ADVENTURE!..
OUR STORY OPENS IN THE CHISHOLM DIAMOND MINE IN THE HEART OF SOUTH AFRICA
I SHOULD STRIKE SOMETHING SOON!
SUDDENLY A DIAMOND OF DAZZLING SIZE AND BRILLIANCE APPEARS BEFORE THE MINER'S ASTONISHED EYES!
HOLY SMOKE!! MUST BE THE BIGGEST DIAMOND IN THE WORLD!!
1

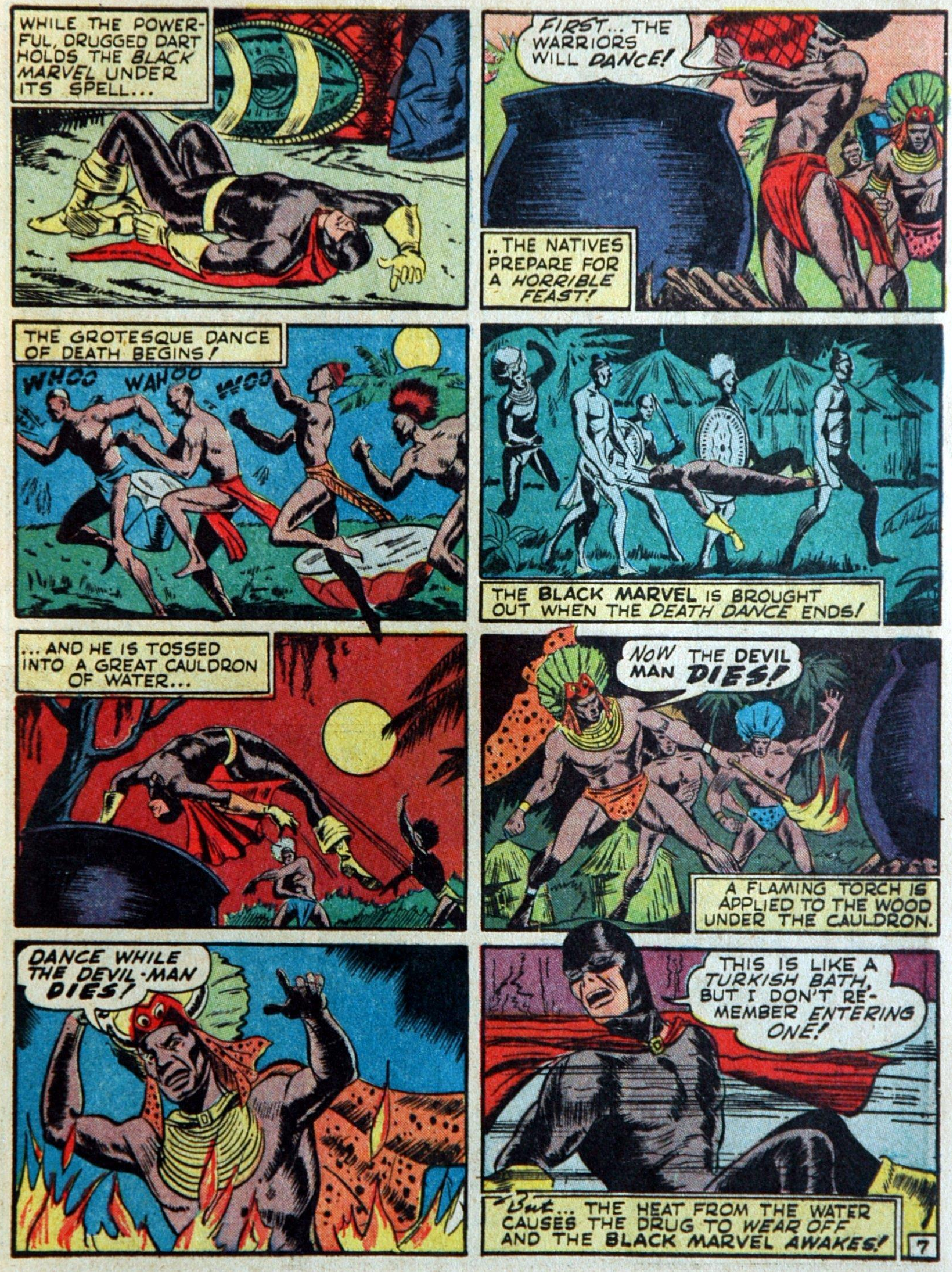

HEY JOE! LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THIS ROCK!
Excitedly... THE MINER CALLS TO HIS FRIENDS...
GOLLY! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! IT'S IMMENSE! IT'S WORTH A FORTUNE!
YUP! AN' I'M GONNA DIG IT OUT! !!!
BUT JUST AS THE MINER REACHES OUT TO TOUCH THE GEM!
... HE FALLS TO THE FLOOR... SENSELESS.
MIKE! WHA... WHAT'S WRONG!!
HE... HE'S DEAD! HE TOUCHED THE DIAMOND AND DIED! HEY, FELLAS... C'MERE!
HOW DID IT HAPPEN?
I DON'T KNOW.. HE JUST FELL DEAD AFTER TOUCHING THE DIAMOND!
INSTANTLY, A SMALL CROWD OF EXCITED MINERS GATHER ROUND!!
BOY! WHAT A STONE! MAYBE THERE IS A CURSE ON IT!
NUTS! ONLY THE DUMB NATIVES BELIEVE THAT BUNK! I'LL TAKE THE DIAMOND AND SHOW YOU!!
AS THE SECOND MINER TOUCHES THE MYSTERIOUS GEM --
LOOK IT'S GOT HIM... TOO!
HE'S DEAD! JUST LIKE MIKE!!
WHAT IS THE STRANGE SECRET OF THIS DIAMOND OF DEATH?!

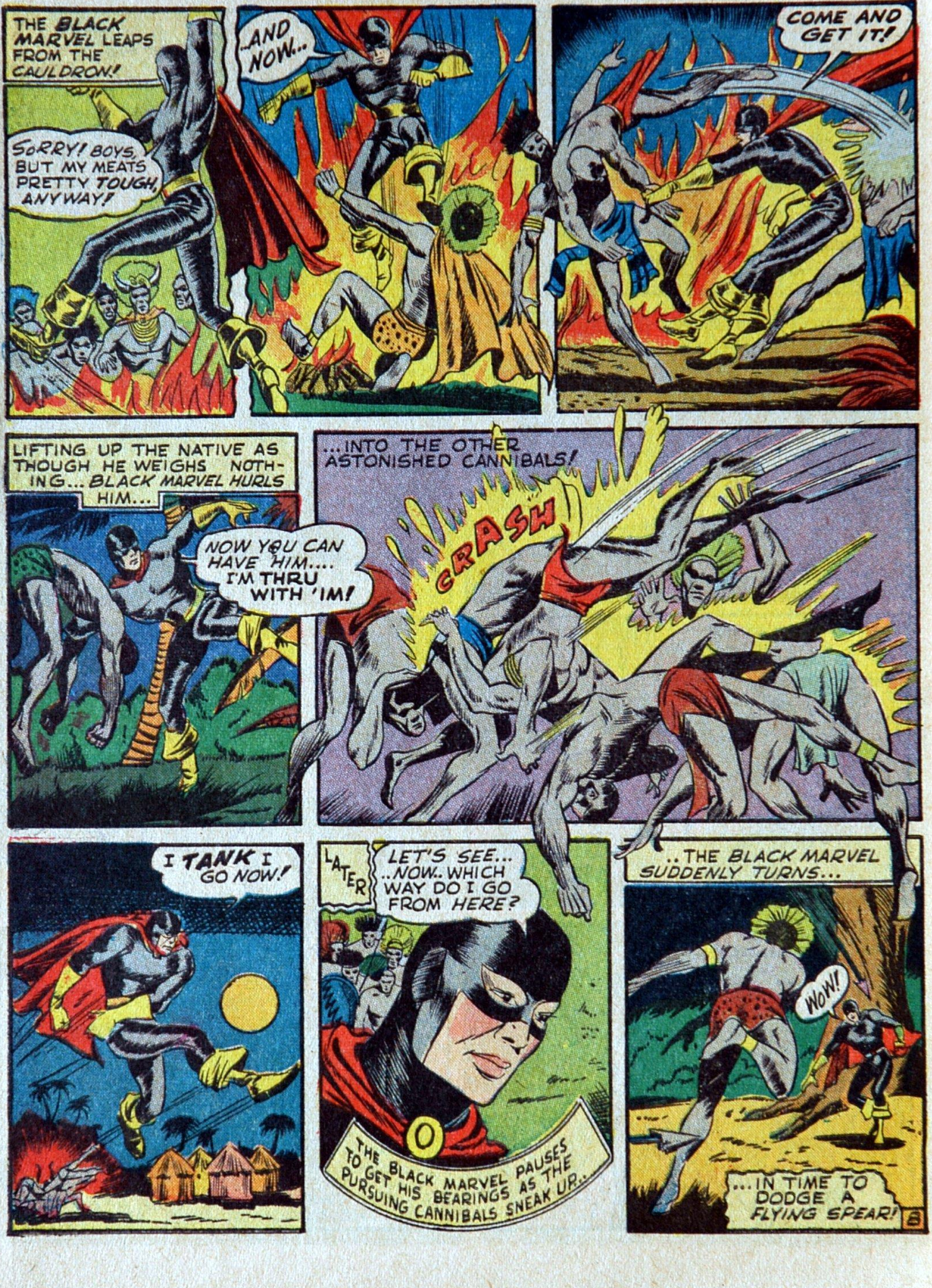

SUDDENLY AN EVIL FIGURE APPEARS FROM THE DARKNESS OF THE MINE, WEARING THE COSTUME OF THE DEADLY MARI TRIBE!
I AM BUKA, THE WITCH DOCTOR.. TAKE WARNING THAT VOOL-KAN, THE EARTH-CORE GOD... HAS PLACED THIS MINE UNDER A CURSE... THE GIANT DIAMOND IS HIS... AND WHO SOEVER SHALL TOUCH IT SHALL TASTE OF HIS VENGEANCE.. AND DEATH!!
I DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT!
THE MINERS FLEE IN STARK TERROR!
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE! I DON'T WANT TO GET MIXED UP WITH ANY CURSES!
OH! VOOL-KAN, EARTH CORE GOD THY WISH SHALL BE RESPECTED!
BUKA, THE WITCH-DOCTOR STIRS UP THE NATIVE MINE-WORKERS
THE MINE IS ACCURSED! VOOL-KAN HAS DECREED DEATH TO ALL WHO WORK IN IT! I PUT A TABOO UPON THE MINE!
WE WILL NOT ENTER!
IT IS TABOO!!
DON'T BE FOOLS, MEN.. WE PAY YOU WELL TO WORK IN THE MINE! YOU MUST NOT STOP! THERE IS NO TABOO... BUKA LIES!
NO! WE NO WORK IT'S TABOO!
THE FOREMAN APPEALS TO THE NATIVE MINERS...
THE WITCH DOCTOR IS SPREADING THIS TABOO STORY! THEY ARE AFRAID TO WORK!
THIS IS PREPOSTEROUS.. WE CAN'T SHUT DOWN THIS MINE BECAUSE OF A SILLY TABOO... I'LL TALK TO THOSE NATIVES MYSELF!
THE FOREMAN REPORTS TO MR. CHISHOLM.... THE MINE OWNER..

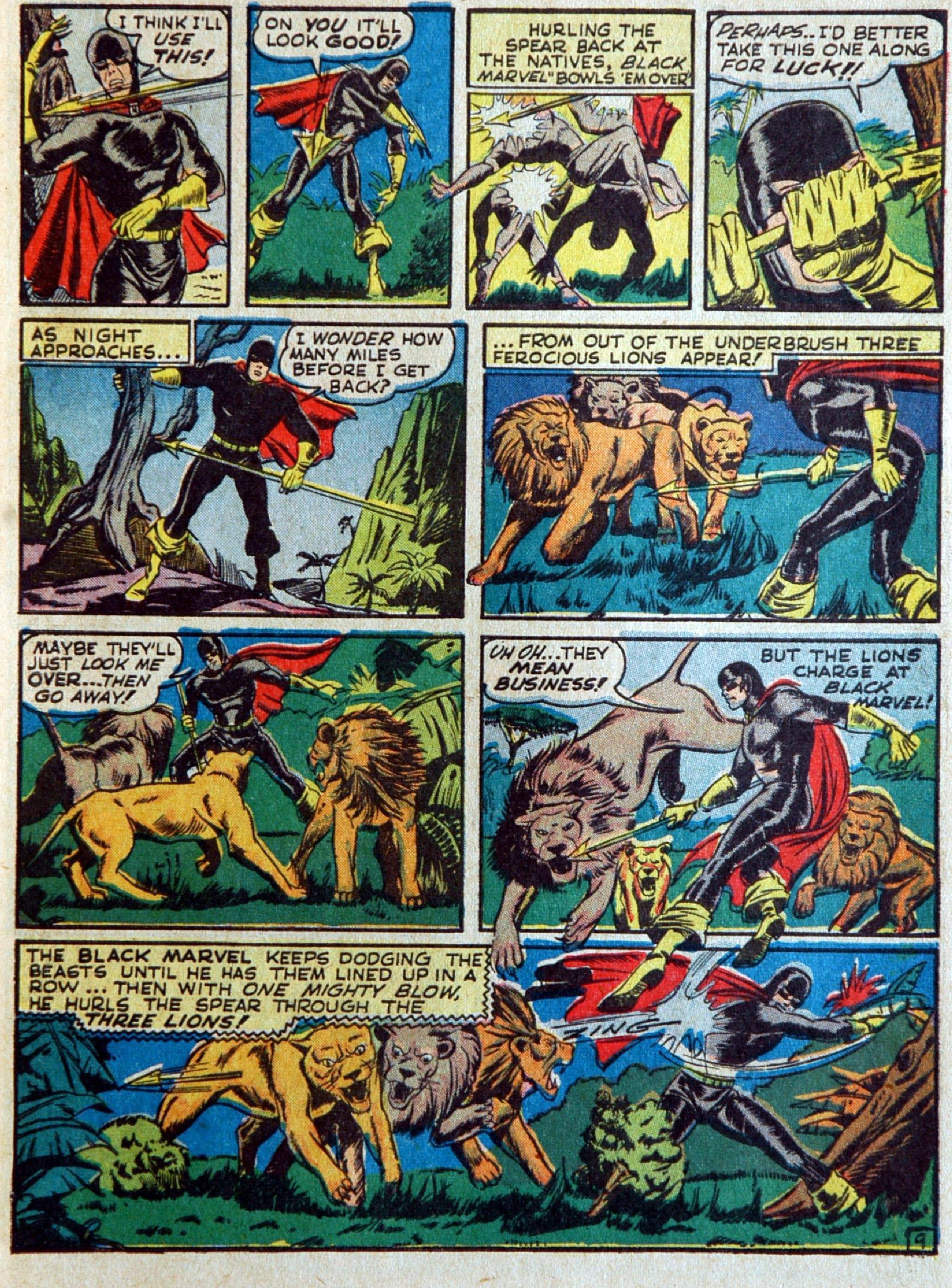

MR. CHISHOLM ADDRESSES THE REBELLIOUS NATIVES
MEN!! DO NOT BELIEVE BUKA'S STORY.. THERE IS NO CURSE UPON THE MINE.. THE TWO WHITE MEN DIED ACCIDENTALLY!
THE WHITE BOSS LIES! WE WILL NOT WORK IN THIS MINE!!
I'D BETTER LEAVE BEFORE THEY GET NASTY!
WHILE AN ANGRY MURMUR COMES FROM THE CROWD OF NATIVES OUTSIDE!
IT'S GETTING DANGEROUS TO EVEN TALK TO THEM!!
WHAT A MESS THIS IS! WE MUST FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO THOSE TWO MINERS... AND WE MUST GET THAT BIG DIAMOND!
THAT NIGHT.. THE GROUNDS OF THE MINE ARE DESERTED!
Speeding THRU THE NIGHT IS A BLACK, SILENT CAR BEARING FOUR SINISTER OCCUPANTS.
THIS IS IT! WITH PEOPLE SCARED TO COME NEAR THE MINE... IT'LL BE A CINCH TO GET THE DIAMOND!
BUT SUPPOSE THERE'S SOMETHING TO THAT CURSE BUSINESS !?!
DON'T BE A SUCKER! THIS'LL BE THE EASIEST JOB WE EVER PULLED! ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS GET RID OF THAT .... GUARD!
THE FOUR MEN APPROACH THE LONE MINE GUARD
I HEAR THERE'S BEEN TROUBLE AROUND HERE!
YEAH! THOSE NATIVES WON'T GO BACK TO WORK!

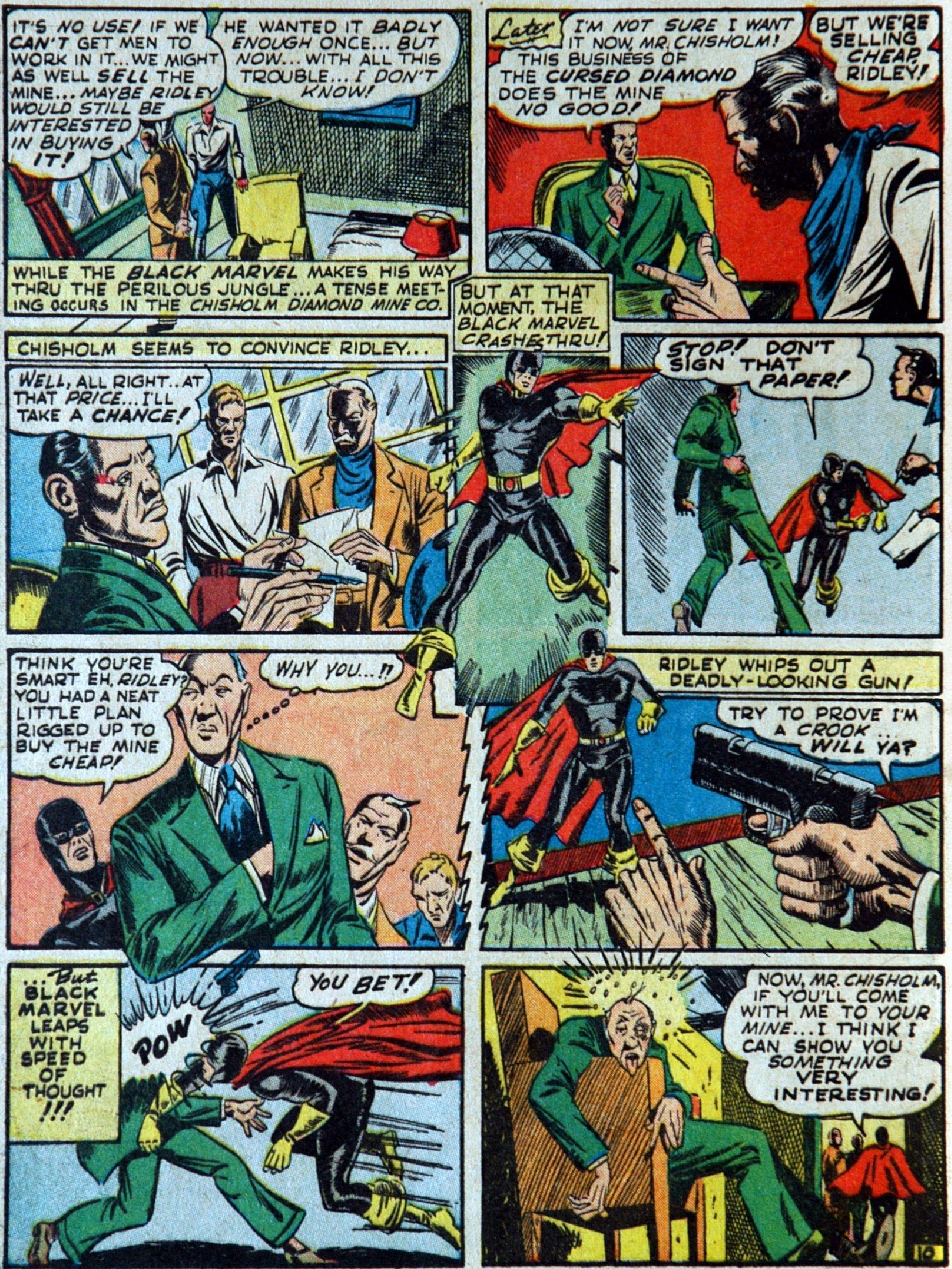

AS THE UNSUSPECTING GUARD TALKS... ONE OF THE MEN REACHES THRU THE BARS.. ...AND..
NICE WORK! NOW GET THE KEYS OUT OF HIS POCKET!
THE CRIMINALS STEAL THRU THE DARK MINE...
THE DIAMOND MUST BE HERE SOMEPLACE!
... AND FINALLY COME TO THE GEM!
MUST BE WORTH THREE MILLION DOLLARS, EASY!! C'MON LET'S GET IT OUT!!
BOY! WHAT A BEAUTY! !!!
HERE GOES!
...AS THE THUG PREPARES TO CHOP THE DIAMOND, THE GRIM SHADOW OF DEATH SEEMS TO STEAL UP BEHIND!
..WHA... WHAT DO YOU WANT?!
..AND AS HIS HAND ACCIDENTALLY TOUCHES THE DIAMOND...
WHAT'S GOING ON?!!
HE'S DEADER'N A MACKEREL!
WELL, THAT AIN'T GONNA STOP ME FROM GETTING THAT ROCK!
THE CROOK DROPS TO THE FLOOR, STONE-DEAD!
Suddenly THE BLACK MARVEL, NEMESIS OF WRONG-DOERS, APPEARS
MAYBE THAT WON'T STOP YOU, BUT I WILL!!
THE BLACK MARVEL EASILY DODGES A MURDEROUSLY THROWN HAMMER!
NOT CLOSE ENOUGH!
THIS is FOR THE HAMMER YOU THREW!
BOP

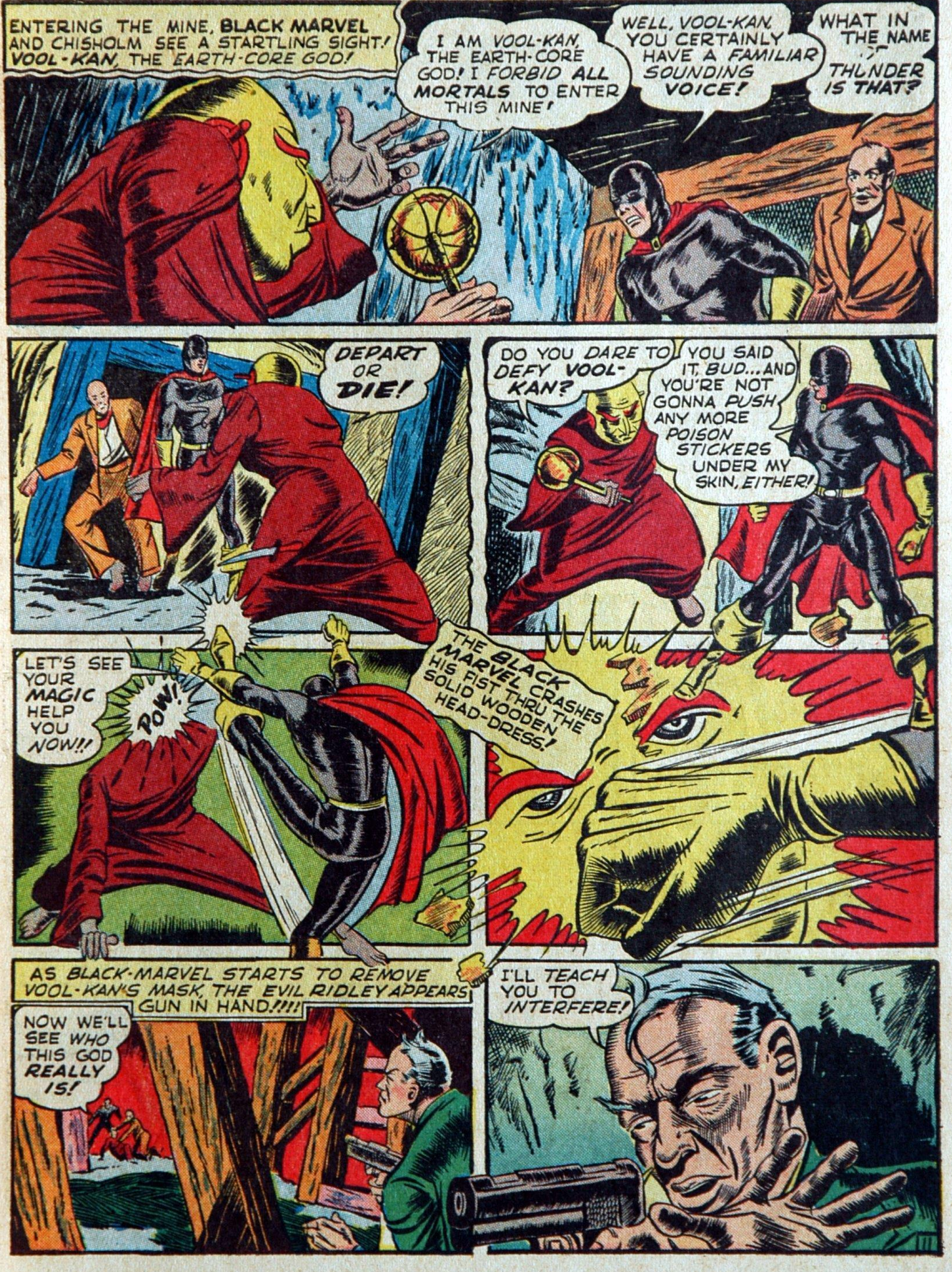

THE BLACK MARVEL BATTLES WITH THE FURY OF A THOUSAND DEMONS!
AFTER THE BLACK MARVEL HAS SUBDUED THE MEN. HALF-NAKED SAVAGES SNEAK UP BEHIND HIM... AND...
UGHHH!!
PICK UP THE DEVIL-MAN!
A DRUGGED DART, RENDERS THE BLACK MARVEL UNCONSCIOUS!
BLACK MARVEL IS CARRIED OUT OF THE MINE!
...AND THRU THE DENSE, DARK JUNGLE...
...TO THE MARI TRIBE'S VILLAGE... A VILLAGE OF CANNIBALS!
THE WITCH-DOCTOR SPEAKS
LEAVE DEVIL-MAN HERE UNTIL WARRIORS ARE READY FOR THE FEAST!

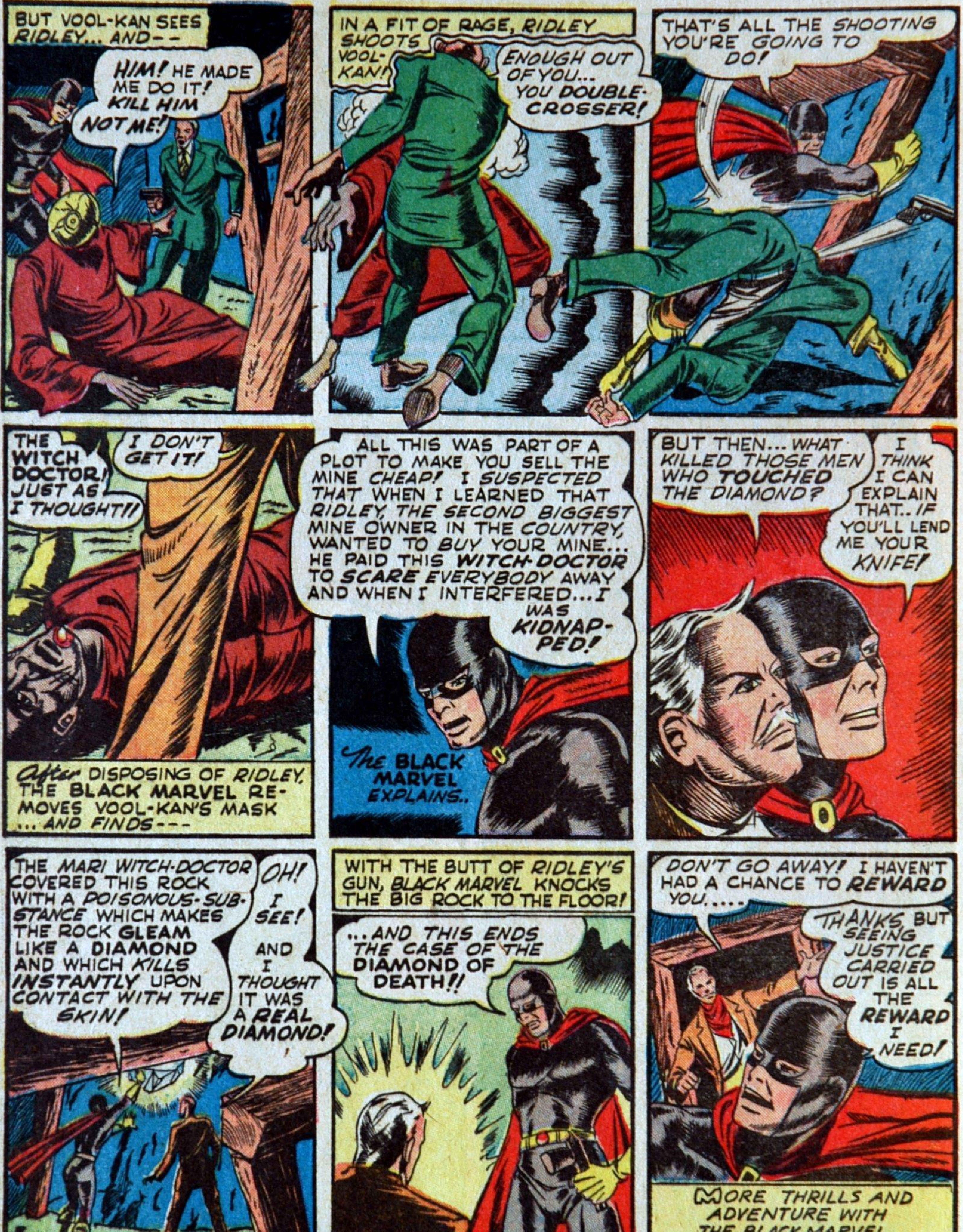

WHILE THE POWERFUL, DRUGGED DART HOLDS THE *BLACK MARVEL* UNDER ITS SPELL...
FIRST... THE WARRIORS WILL *DANCE!*
..THE NATIVES PREPARE FOR A *HORRIBLE FEAST!*
THE GROTESQUE DANCE OF DEATH BEGINS!
WHOO
WAHOO
WOO
THE **BLACK MARVEL** IS BROUGHT OUT WHEN THE *DEATH DANCE* ENDS!
...AND HE IS TOSSED INTO A GREAT CAULDRON OF WATER...
NOW THE **DEVIL MAN DIES!**
A FLAMING TORCH IS APPLIED TO THE WOOD UNDER THE CAULDRON.
DANCE WHILE THE DEVIL-MAN **DIES!**
THIS IS LIKE A *TURKISH BATH*, BUT I DON'T REMEMBER *ENTERING ONE!*
But... THE HEAT FROM THE WATER CAUSES THE DRUG TO *WEAR OFF* AND THE **BLACK MARVEL** *AWAKES!*

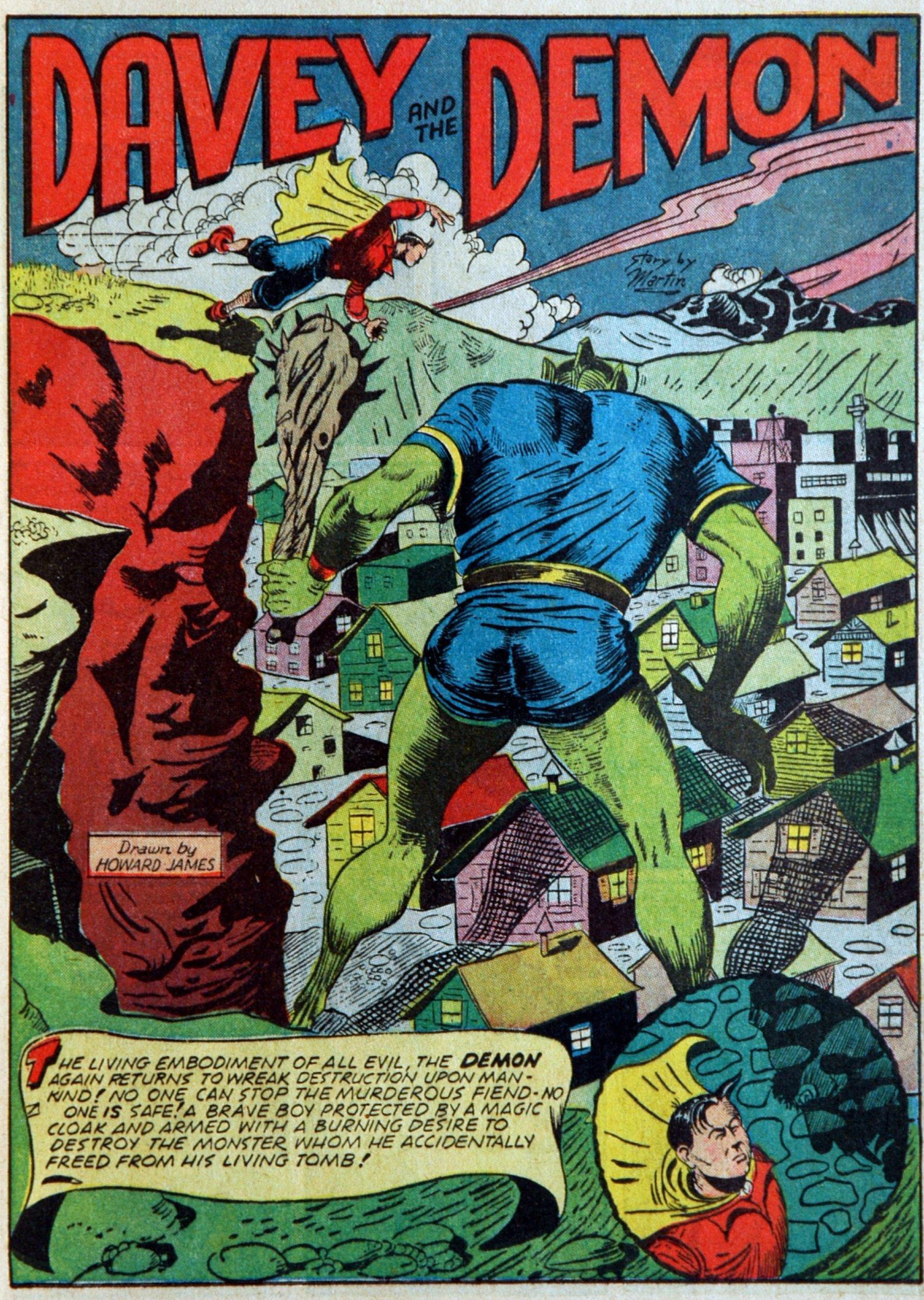

THE BLACK MARVEL LEAPS FROM THE CAULDRON!
SORRY! BOYS, BUT MY MEATS PRETTY TOUGH, ANYWAY!
..AND NOW...
COME AND GET IT!
LIFTING UP THE NATIVE AS THOUGH HE WEIGHS NOTHING... BLACK MARVEL HURLS HIM...
NOW YOU CAN HAVE HIM.... I'M THRU WITH 'IM!
...INTO THE OTHER ASTONISHED CANNIBALS!
CRASH
I TANK I GO NOW!
LATER
LET'S SEE... ..NOW.. WHICH WAY DO I GO FROM HERE?
THE BLACK MARVEL PAUSES TO GET HIS BEARINGS AS THE PURSUING CANNIBALS SNEAK UP..
..THE BLACK MARVEL SUDDENLY TURNS...
WOW!
...IN TIME TO DODGE A FLYING SPEAR!
8


I THINK I'LL *USE* **THIS!**
ON *YOU* IT'LL LOOK **GOOD!**
HURLING THE SPEAR BACK AT THE NATIVES, *BLACK MARVEL* BOWLS 'EM OVER!
PERHAPS.. I'D BETTER TAKE THIS ONE ALONG FOR **LUCK!!**
AS NIGHT APPROACHES...
I *WONDER* HOW MANY MILES BEFORE I GET BACK?
... FROM OUT OF THE UNDERBRUSH THREE FEROCIOUS LIONS APPEAR!
MAYBE THEY'LL JUST *LOOK ME* OVER... THEN *GO AWAY!*
OH OH... THEY ***MEAN BUSINESS!***
BUT THE LIONS CHARGE AT *BLACK MARVEL!*
THE **BLACK MARVEL** KEEPS DODGING THE BEASTS UNTIL HE HAS THEM LINED UP IN A ROW ... THEN WITH *ONE MIGHTY BLOW,* HE HURLS THE SPEAR THROUGH THE *THREE LIONS!*
ZING


IT'S NO USE! IF WE CAN'T GET MEN TO WORK IN IT... WE MIGHT AS WELL SELL THE MINE... MAYBE RIDLEY WOULD STILL BE INTERESTED IN BUYING IT!
HE WANTED IT BADLY ENOUGH ONCE... BUT NOW... WITH ALL THIS TROUBLE... I DON'T KNOW!
Later
I'M NOT SURE I WANT IT NOW, MR. CHISHOLM! THIS BUSINESS OF THE CURSED DIAMOND DOES THE MINE NO GOOD!
BUT WE'RE SELLING CHEAP, RIDLEY!
WHILE THE BLACK MARVEL MAKES HIS WAY THRU THE PERILOUS JUNGLE... A TENSE MEETING OCCURS IN THE CHISHOLM DIAMOND MINE CO.
CHISHOLM SEEMS TO CONVINCE RIDLEY...
WELL, ALL RIGHT.. AT THAT PRICE... I'LL TAKE A CHANCE!
BUT AT THAT MOMENT, THE BLACK MARVEL CRASHES THRU!
STOP! DON'T SIGN THAT PAPER!
THINK YOU'RE SMART EH, RIDLEY? YOU HAD A NEAT LITTLE PLAN RIGGED UP TO BUY THE MINE CHEAP!
WHY YOU...!!
RIDLEY WHIPS OUT A DEADLY-LOOKING GUN!
TRY TO PROVE I'M A CROOK... WILL YA?
...But BLACK MARVEL LEAPS WITH SPEED OF THOUGHT !!!
YOU BET!
POW
NOW, MR. CHISHOLM, IF YOU'LL COME WITH ME TO YOUR MINE... I THINK I CAN SHOW YOU SOMETHING VERY INTERESTING!

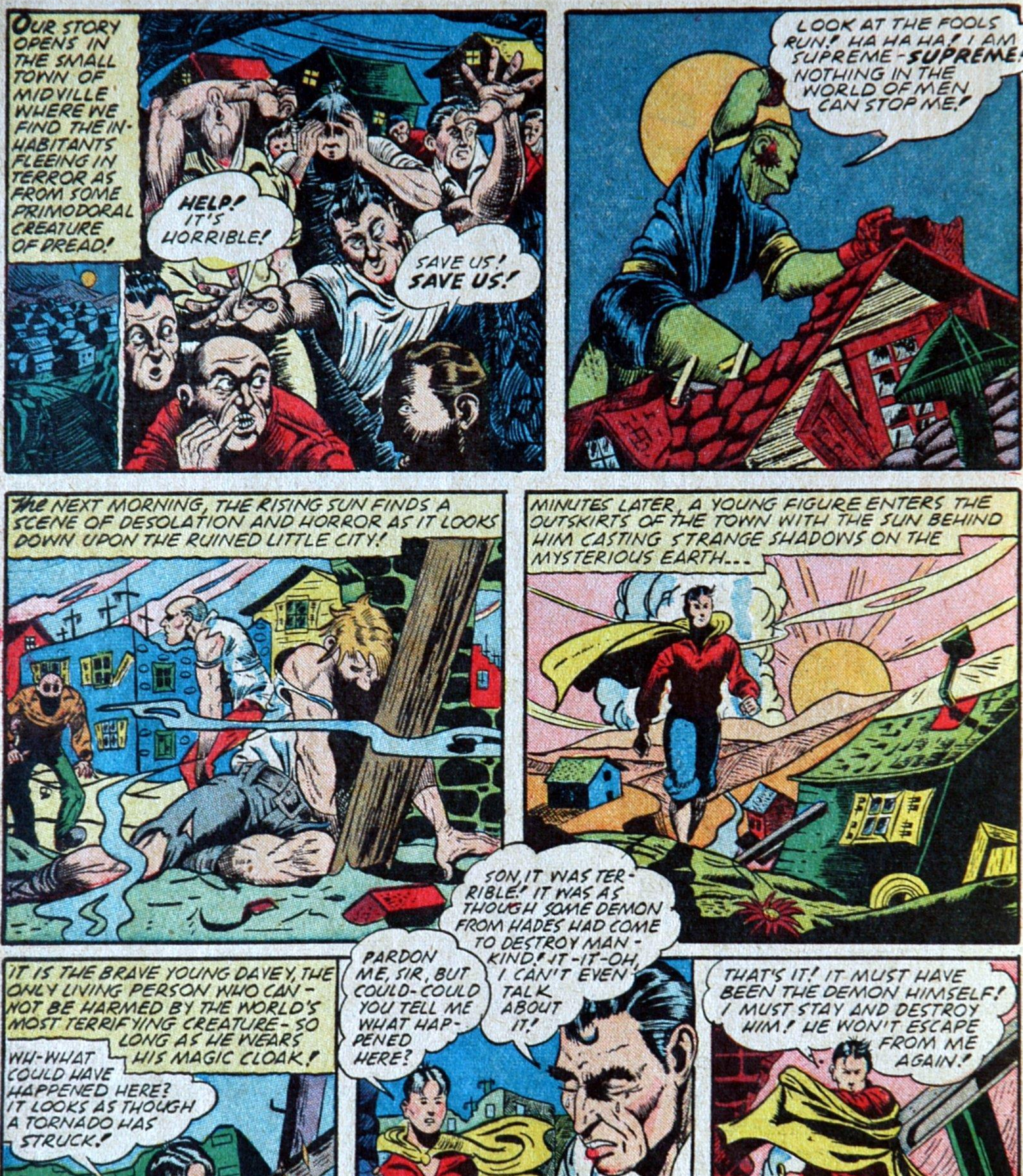

ENTERING THE MINE, BLACK MARVEL AND CHISHOLM SEE A STARTLING SIGHT! VOOL-KAN, THE EARTH-CORE GOD!
I AM VOOL-KAN, THE EARTH-CORE GOD! I FORBID ALL MORTALS TO ENTER THIS MINE!
WELL, VOOL-KAN, YOU CERTAINLY HAVE A FAMILIAR SOUNDING VOICE!
WHAT IN THE NAME OF THUNDER IS THAT?
DEPART OR DIE!
DO YOU DARE TO DEFY VOOL-KAN?
YOU SAID IT, BUD...AND YOU'RE NOT GONNA PUSH ANY MORE POISON STICKERS UNDER MY SKIN, EITHER!
LET'S SEE YOUR MAGIC HELP YOU NOW!!
POW!
THE BLACK MARVEL CRASHES HIS FIST THRU THE SOLID WOODEN HEAD-DRESS!
AS BLACK-MARVEL STARTS TO REMOVE VOOL-KAN'S MASK, THE EVIL RIDLEY APPEARS GUN IN HAND!!!!
NOW WE'LL SEE WHO THIS GOD REALLY IS!
I'LL TEACH YOU TO INTERFERE!

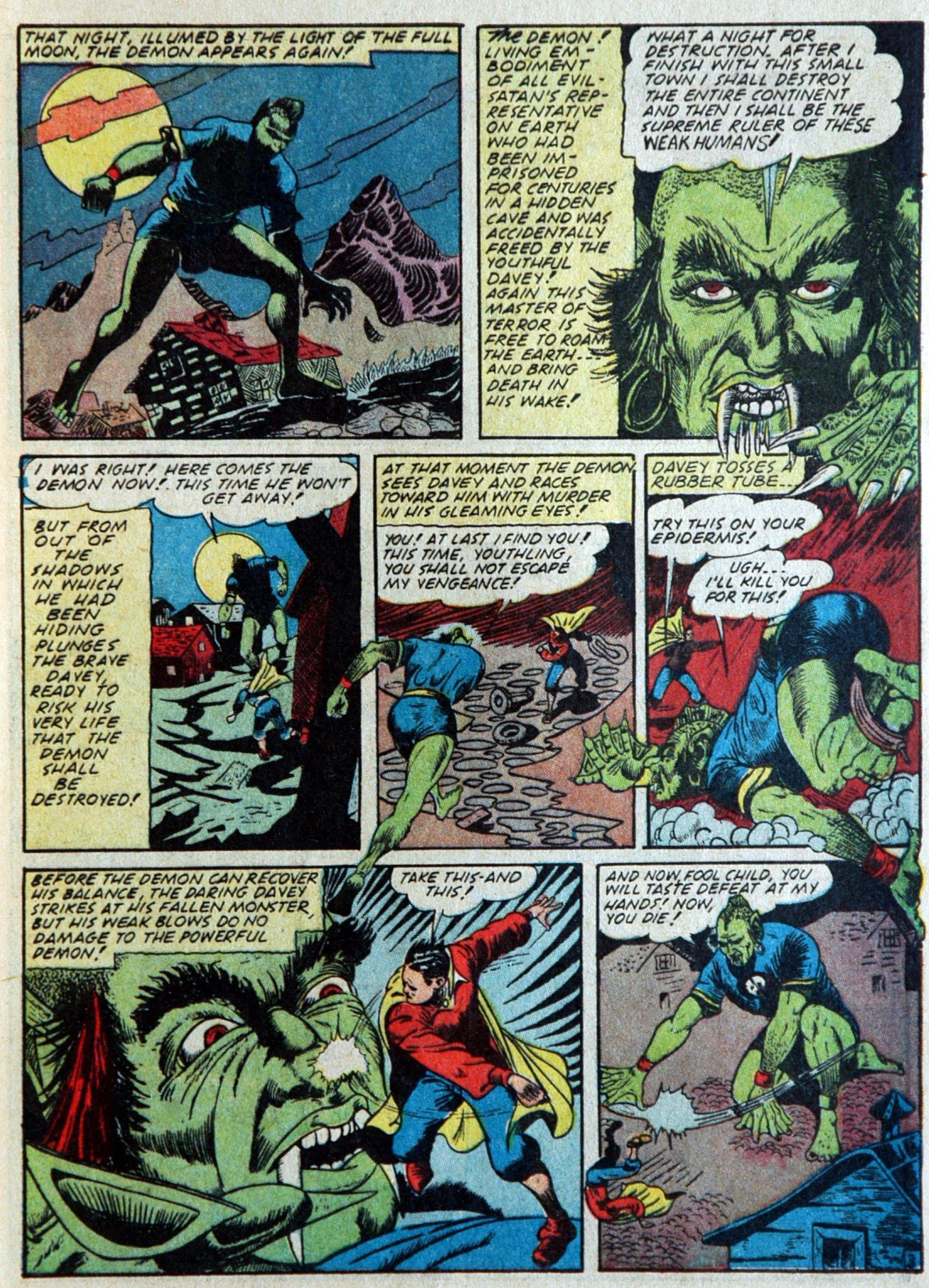

BUT VOOL-KAN SEES RIDLEY... AND--
HIM! HE MADE ME DO IT! KILL HIM NOT ME!
IN A FIT OF RAGE, RIDLEY SHOOTS VOOL-KAN!
ENOUGH OUT OF YOU... YOU DOUBLE-CROSSER!
THAT'S ALL THE SHOOTING YOU'RE GOING TO DO!
THE WITCH DOCTOR! JUST AS I THOUGHT!!
I DON'T GET IT!
After DISPOSING OF RIDLEY, THE BLACK MARVEL REMOVES VOOL-KAN'S MASK ... AND FINDS---
ALL THIS WAS PART OF A PLOT TO MAKE YOU SELL THE MINE CHEAP! I SUSPECTED THAT WHEN I LEARNED THAT RIDLEY, THE SECOND BIGGEST MINE OWNER IN THE COUNTRY, WANTED TO BUY YOUR MINE... HE PAID THIS WITCH-DOCTOR TO SCARE EVERYBODY AWAY AND WHEN I INTERFERED... I WAS KIDNAPPED!
The BLACK MARVEL EXPLAINS..
BUT THEN... WHAT KILLED THOSE MEN WHO TOUCHED THE DIAMOND?
I THINK I CAN EXPLAIN THAT.. IF YOU'LL LEND ME YOUR KNIFE!
THE MARI WITCH-DOCTOR COVERED THIS ROCK WITH A POISONOUS-SUBSTANCE WHICH MAKES THE ROCK GLEAM LIKE A DIAMOND AND WHICH KILLS INSTANTLY UPON CONTACT WITH THE SKIN!
OH! I SEE! AND I THOUGHT IT WAS A REAL DIAMOND!
WITH THE BUTT OF RIDLEY'S GUN, BLACK MARVEL KNOCKS THE BIG ROCK TO THE FLOOR!
...AND THIS ENDS THE CASE OF THE DIAMOND OF DEATH!!
DON'T GO AWAY! I HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO REWARD YOU.....
THANKS BUT SEEING JUSTICE CARRIED OUT IS ALL THE REWARD I NEED!
MORE THRILLS AND ADVENTURE WITH THE BLACK MARVEL NEXT MONTH

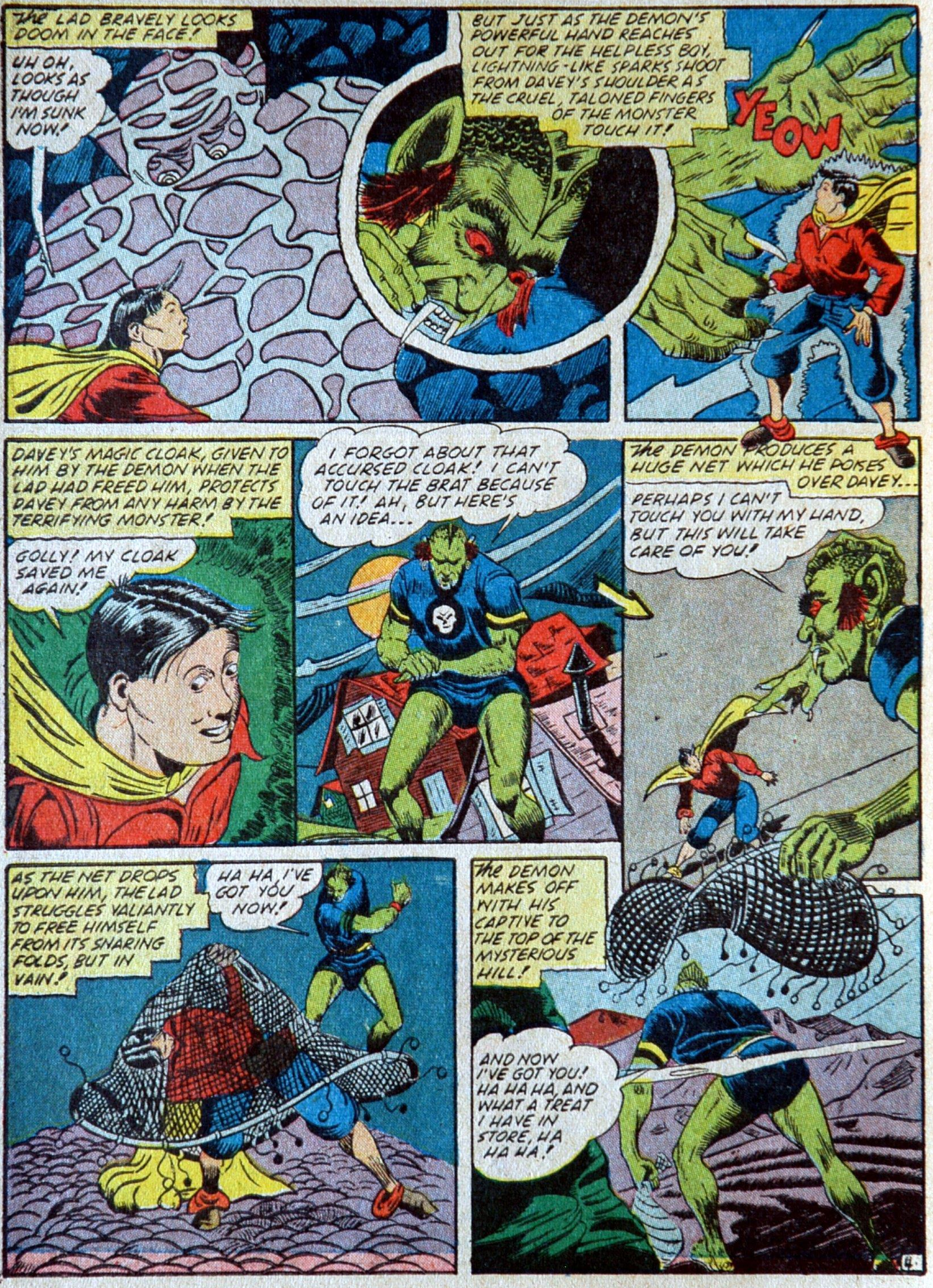


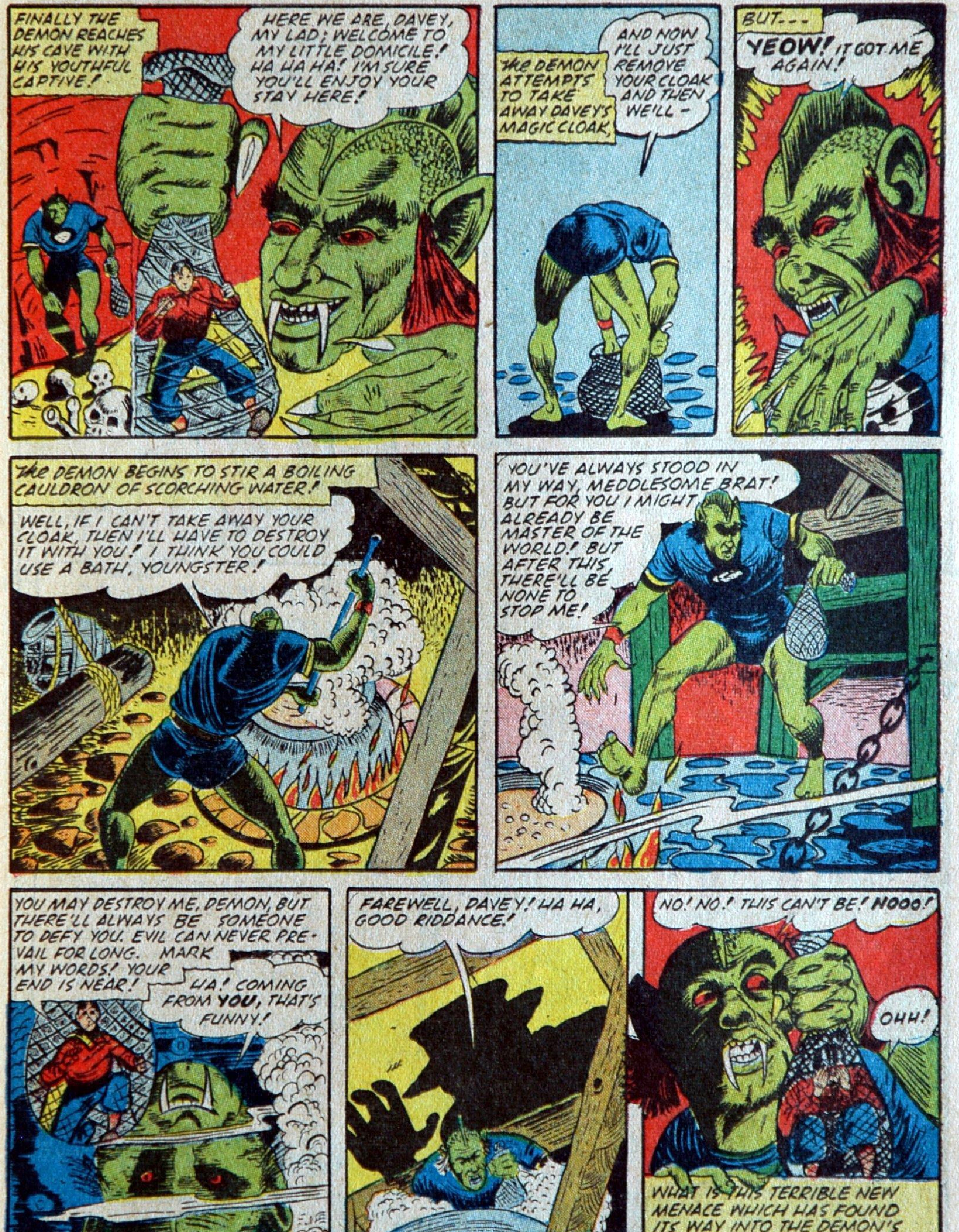
DAVEY AND THE DEMON

Story by Martin
Drawn by HOWARD JAMES
THE LIVING EMBODIMENT OF ALL EVIL, THE **DEMON** AGAIN RETURNS TO WREAK DESTRUCTION UPON MANKIND! NO ONE CAN STOP THE MURDEROUS FIEND- NO ONE **IS** SAFE! A BRAVE BOY PROTECTED BY A MAGIC CLOAK AND ARMED WITH A BURNING DESIRE TO DESTROY THE MONSTER WHOM HE ACCIDENTALLY FREED FROM HIS LIVING TOMB!


OUR STORY OPENS IN THE SMALL TOWN OF MIDVILLE WHERE WE FIND THE INHABITANTS FLEEING IN TERROR AS FROM SOME PRIMODORAL CREATURE OF DREAD!
HELP! IT'S HORRIBLE!
SAVE US! SAVE US!
LOOK AT THE FOOLS RUN! HA HA HA! I AM SUPREME—SUPREME! NOTHING IN THE WORLD OF MEN CAN STOP ME!
THE NEXT MORNING, THE RISING SUN FINDS A SCENE OF DESOLATION AND HORROR AS IT LOOKS DOWN UPON THE RUINED LITTLE CITY!
MINUTES LATER, A YOUNG FIGURE ENTERS THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE TOWN WITH THE SUN BEHIND HIM CASTING STRANGE SHADOWS ON THE MYSTERIOUS EARTH...
IT IS THE BRAVE YOUNG DAVEY, THE ONLY LIVING PERSON WHO CANNOT BE HARMED BY THE WORLD'S MOST TERRIFYING CREATURE—SO LONG AS HE WEARS HIS MAGIC CLOAK!
WH-WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED HERE? IT LOOKS AS THOUGH A TORNADO HAS STRUCK!
PARDON ME, SIR, BUT COULD-COULD YOU TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
SON, IT WAS TERRIBLE! IT WAS AS THOUGH SOME DEMON FROM HADES HAD COME TO DESTROY MANKIND! IT-IT-OH, I CAN'T EVEN TALK ABOUT IT!
THAT'S IT! IT MUST HAVE BEEN THE DEMON HIMSELF! I MUST STAY AND DESTROY HIM! HE WON'T ESCAPE FROM ME AGAIN!


THAT NIGHT, ILLUMED BY THE LIGHT OF THE FULL MOON, THE DEMON APPEARS AGAIN!
THE DEMON! LIVING EMBODIMENT OF ALL EVIL-SATAN'S REPRESENTATIVE ON EARTH WHO HAD BEEN IMPRISONED FOR CENTURIES IN A HIDDEN CAVE AND WAS ACCIDENTALLY FREED BY THE YOUTHFUL DAVEY! AGAIN THIS MASTER OF TERROR IS FREE TO ROAM THE EARTH--- AND BRING DEATH IN HIS WAKE!
WHAT A NIGHT FOR DESTRUCTION. AFTER I FINISH WITH THIS SMALL TOWN I SHALL DESTROY THE ENTIRE CONTINENT AND THEN I SHALL BE THE SUPREME RULER OF THESE WEAK HUMANS!
I WAS RIGHT! HERE COMES THE DEMON NOW! THIS TIME HE WON'T GET AWAY!
BUT FROM OUT OF THE SHADOWS IN WHICH HE HAD BEEN HIDING PLUNGES THE BRAVE DAVEY, READY TO RISK HIS VERY LIFE THAT THE DEMON SHALL BE DESTROYED!
AT THAT MOMENT THE DEMON SEES DAVEY AND RACES TOWARD HIM WITH MURDER IN HIS GLEAMING EYES!
YOU! AT LAST I FIND YOU! THIS TIME, YOUTHLING, YOU SHALL NOT ESCAPE MY VENGEANCE!
DAVEY TOSSES A RUBBER TUBE...
TRY THIS ON YOUR EPIDERMIS!
UGH--- I'LL KILL YOU FOR THIS!
BEFORE THE DEMON CAN RECOVER HIS BALANCE, THE DARING DAVEY STRIKES AT HIS FALLEN MONSTER, BUT HIS WEAK BLOWS DO NO DAMAGE TO THE POWERFUL DEMON!
TAKE THIS-AND THIS!
AND NOW, FOOL CHILD, YOU WILL TASTE DEFEAT AT MY HANDS! NOW, YOU DIE!


THE LAD BRAVELY LOOKS DOOM IN THE FACE!
UH OH, LOOKS AS THOUGH I'M SUNK NOW!
BUT JUST AS THE DEMON'S POWERFUL HAND REACHES OUT FOR THE HELPLESS BOY, LIGHTNING-LIKE SPARKS SHOOT FROM DAVEY'S SHOULDER AS THE CRUEL, TALONED FINGERS OF THE MONSTER TOUCH IT!
YEOW
DAVEY'S MAGIC CLOAK, GIVEN TO HIM BY THE DEMON WHEN THE LAD HAD FREED HIM, PROTECTS DAVEY FROM ANY HARM BY THE TERRIFYING MONSTER!
GOLLY! MY CLOAK SAVED ME AGAIN!
I FORGOT ABOUT THAT ACCURSED CLOAK! I CAN'T TOUCH THE BRAT BECAUSE OF IT! AH, BUT HERE'S AN IDEA...
THE DEMON PRODUCES A HUGE NET WHICH HE POISES OVER DAVEY...
PERHAPS I CAN'T TOUCH YOU WITH MY HAND, BUT THIS WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU!
AS THE NET DROPS UPON HIM, THE LAD STRUGGLES VALIANTLY TO FREE HIMSELF FROM ITS SNARING FOLDS, BUT IN VAIN!
HA HA I'VE GOT YOU NOW!
THE DEMON MAKES OFF WITH HIS CAPTIVE TO THE TOP OF THE MYSTERIOUS HILL!
AND NOW I'VE GOT YOU! HA HA HA, AND WHAT A TREAT I HAVE IN STORE, HA HA HA!

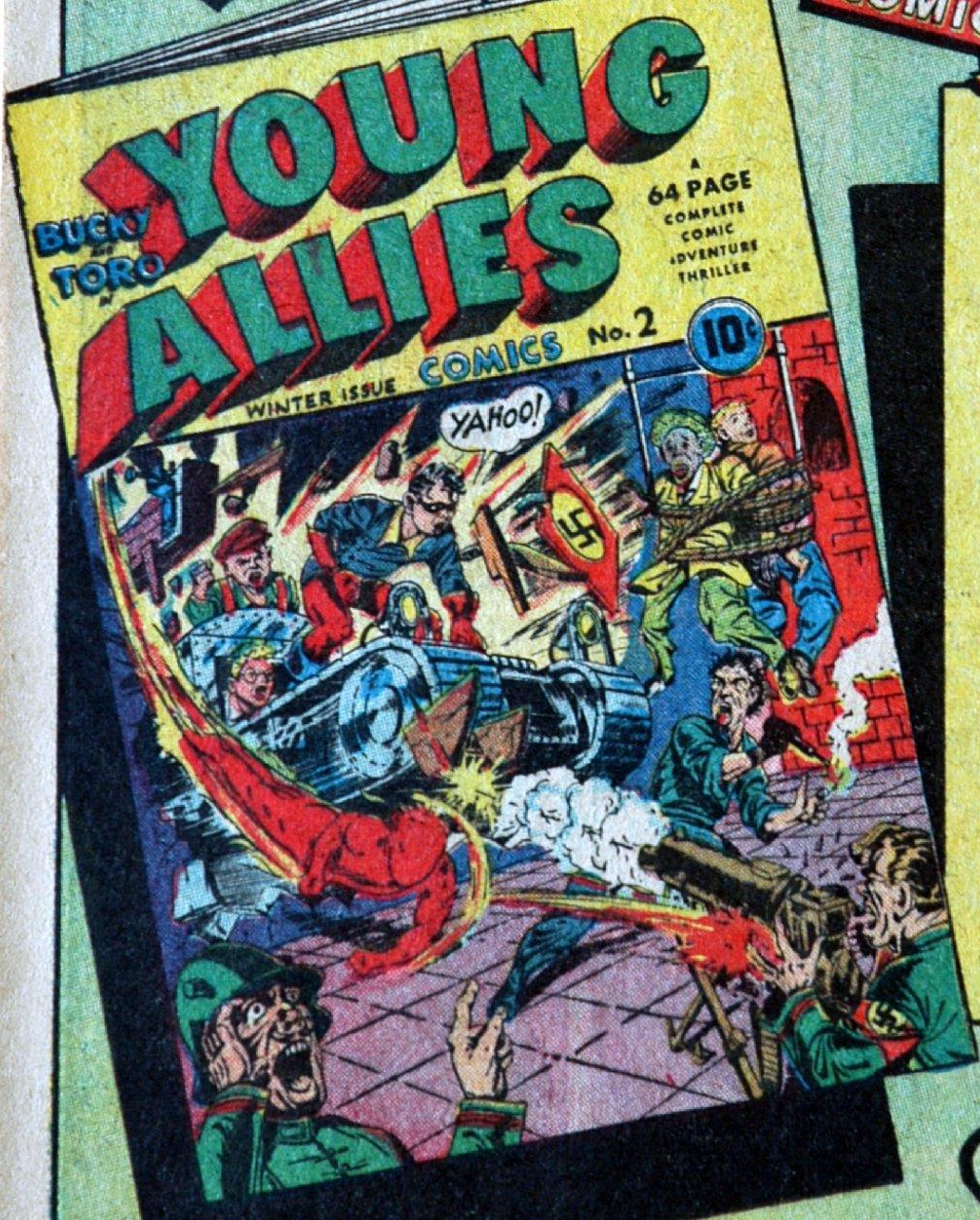

FINALLY THE DEMON REACHES HIS CAVE WITH HIS YOUTHFUL CAPTIVE!
HERE WE ARE, DAVEY, MY LAD; WELCOME TO MY LITTLE DOMICILE! HA HA HA! I'M SURE YOU'LL ENJOY YOUR STAY HERE!
THE DEMON ATTEMPTS TO TAKE AWAY DAVEY'S MAGIC CLOAK.
AND NOW I'LL JUST REMOVE YOUR CLOAK AND THEN WE'LL –
BUT---
YEOW! IT GOT ME AGAIN!
THE DEMON BEGINS TO STIR A BOILING CAULDRON OF SCORCHING WATER!
WELL, IF I CAN'T TAKE AWAY YOUR CLOAK, THEN I'LL HAVE TO DESTROY IT WITH YOU! I THINK YOU COULD USE A BATH, YOUNGSTER!
YOU'VE ALWAYS STOOD IN MY WAY, MEDDLESOME BRAT! BUT FOR YOU I MIGHT ALREADY BE MASTER OF THE WORLD! BUT AFTER THIS, THERE'LL BE NONE TO STOP ME!
YOU MAY DESTROY ME, DEMON, BUT THERE'LL ALWAYS BE SOMEONE TO DEFY YOU. EVIL CAN NEVER PREVAIL FOR LONG. MARK MY WORDS! YOUR END IS NEAR!
HA! COMING FROM YOU, THAT'S FUNNY!
FAREWELL, DAVEY! HA HA, GOOD RIDDANCE!
LOOK BEHIND YOU, DEMON!
NO! NO! THIS CAN'T BE! NOOO!
OHH!
WHAT IS THIS TERRIBLE NEW MENACE WHICH HAS FOUND ITS WAY INTO THE DEMON'S CAVE OF EVIL? MORE OF THIS AMAZINGLY DIFFERENT ADVENTURE IN NEXT MONTH'S MYSTIC COMICS!

The SURPRISE SUCCESS of the CENTURY!

A FEW MONTHS Ago

YOUNG ALLIES

COMICS


BUCKY and TORO in
YOUNG ALLIES
A 64 PAGE COMPLETE COMIC ADVENTURE THRILLER
COMICS
No. 2
10¢
WINTER ISSUE
YAHOO!

HIT THE NEWSSTANDS OF AMERICA AND WERE SOLD OUT IN RECORD-BREAKING TIME!

And Now IN RESPONSE TO THOUSANDS UPON THOUSANDS OF REQUESTS, A SECOND ISSUE OF **"YOUNG ALLIES"** HAS BEEN PRINTED AND WILL SOON BE ON SALE! **DON'T MISS** THIS AMAZING ADVENTURE TALE OF A BRAVE BAND OF AMERICAN BOYS LED BY **BUCKY** (OF CAPTAIN AMERICA) AND **TORO** (OF THE HUMAN TORCH) AS THEY BATTLE THE **BLACK TALON,** THE MOST VICIOUS KILLER EVER TO MENACE THE UNITED STATES!

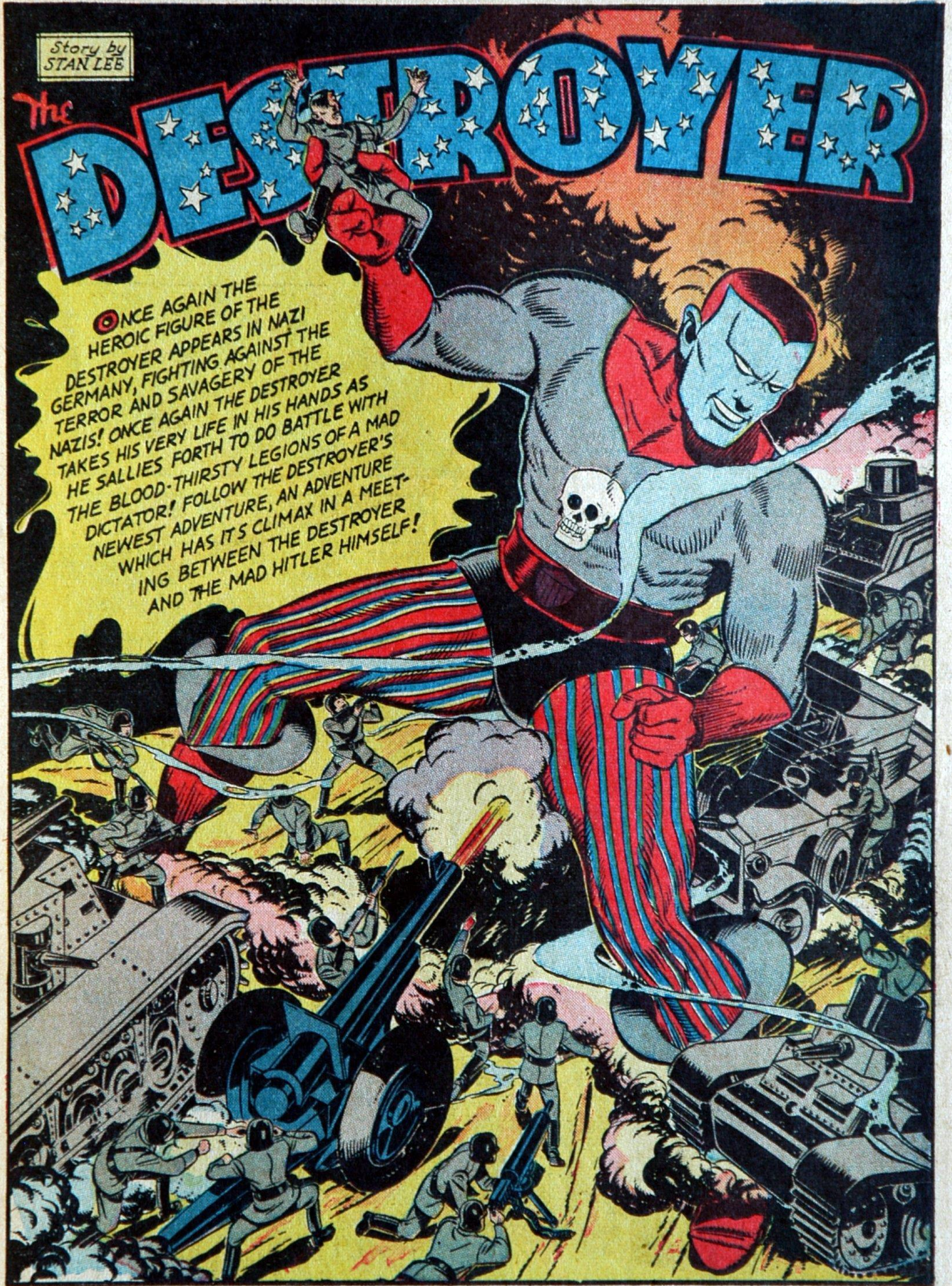
. . . . .

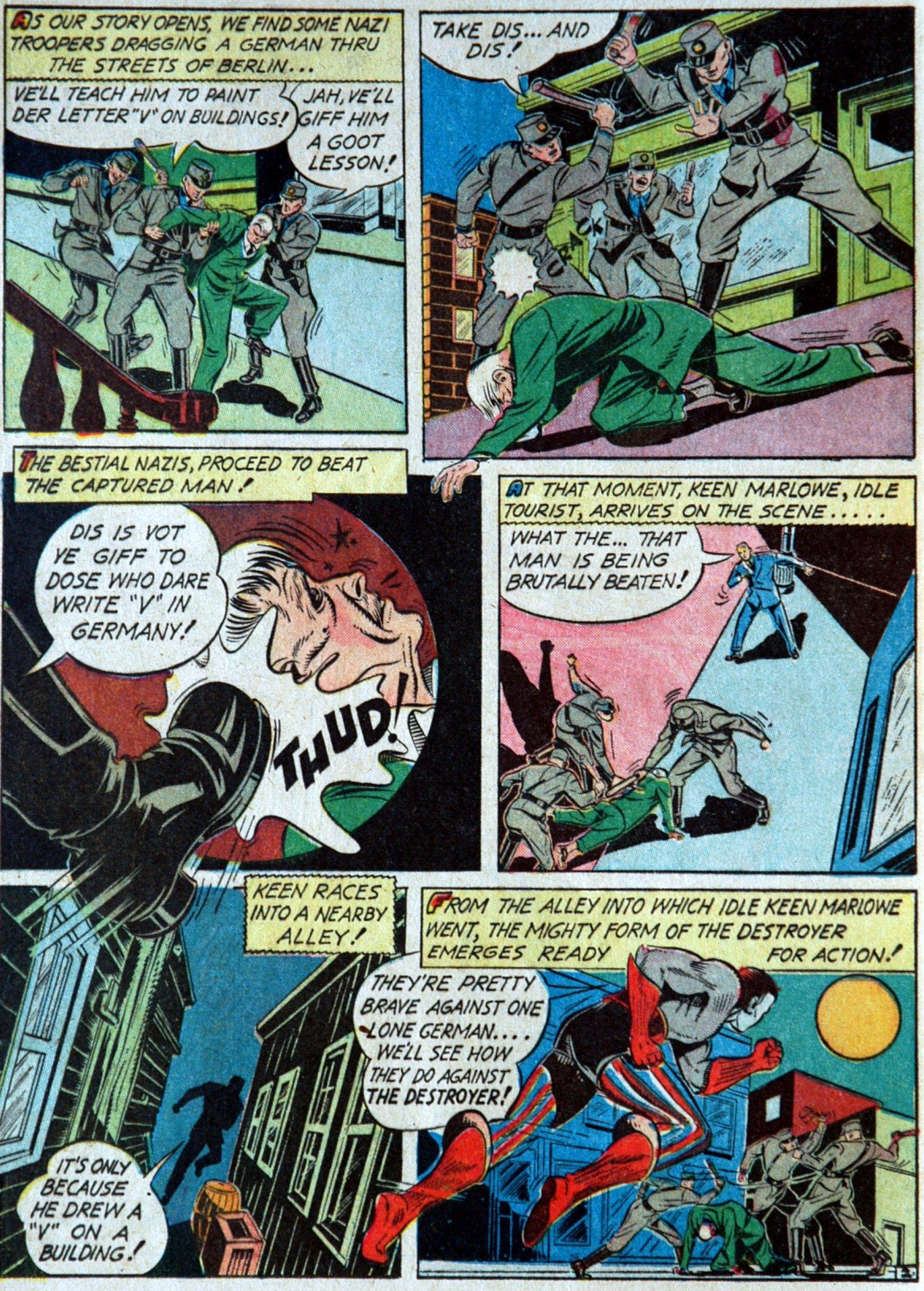
64 PAGES OF THRILLS!

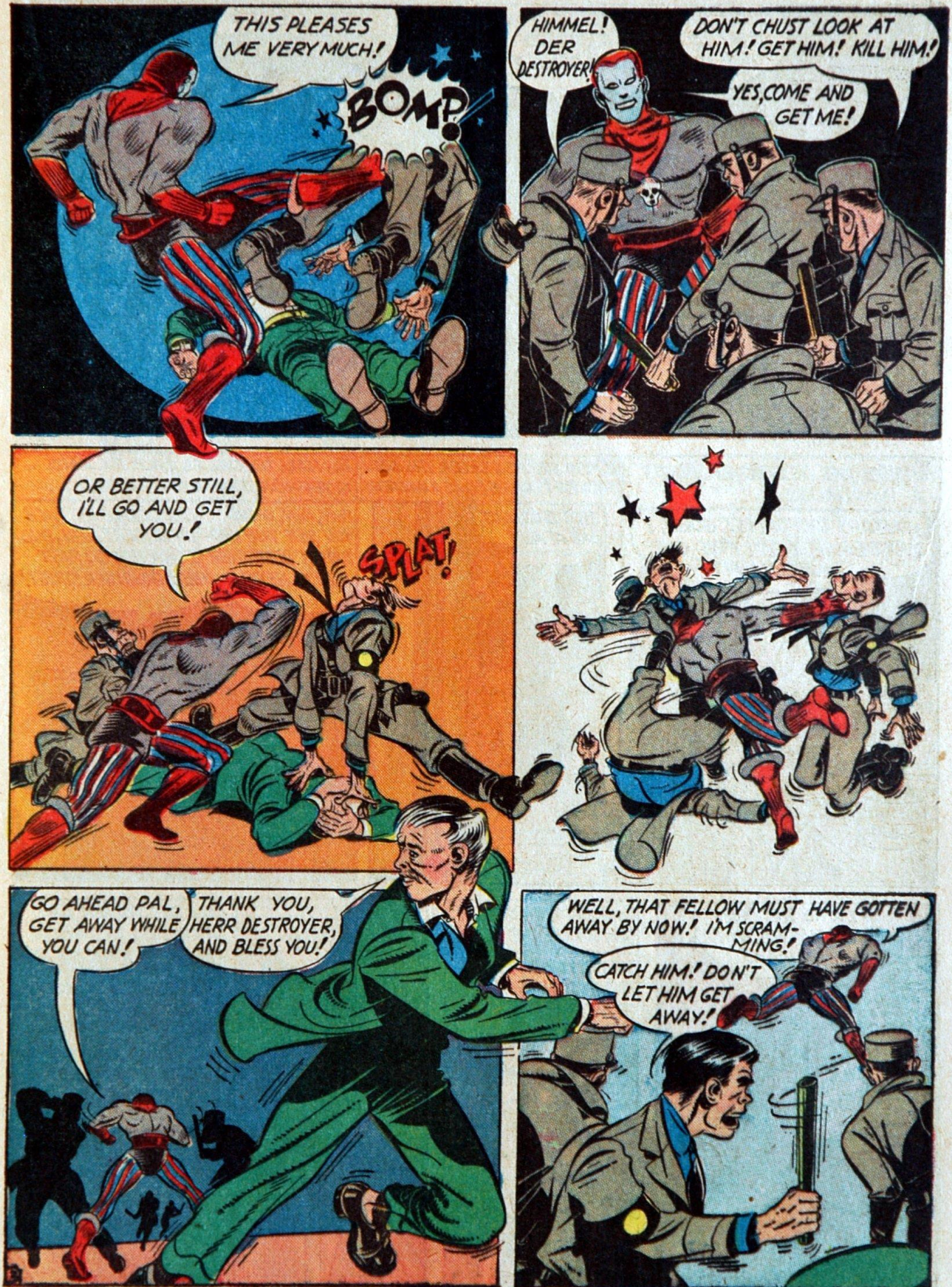
YOUNG ALLIES # 2.

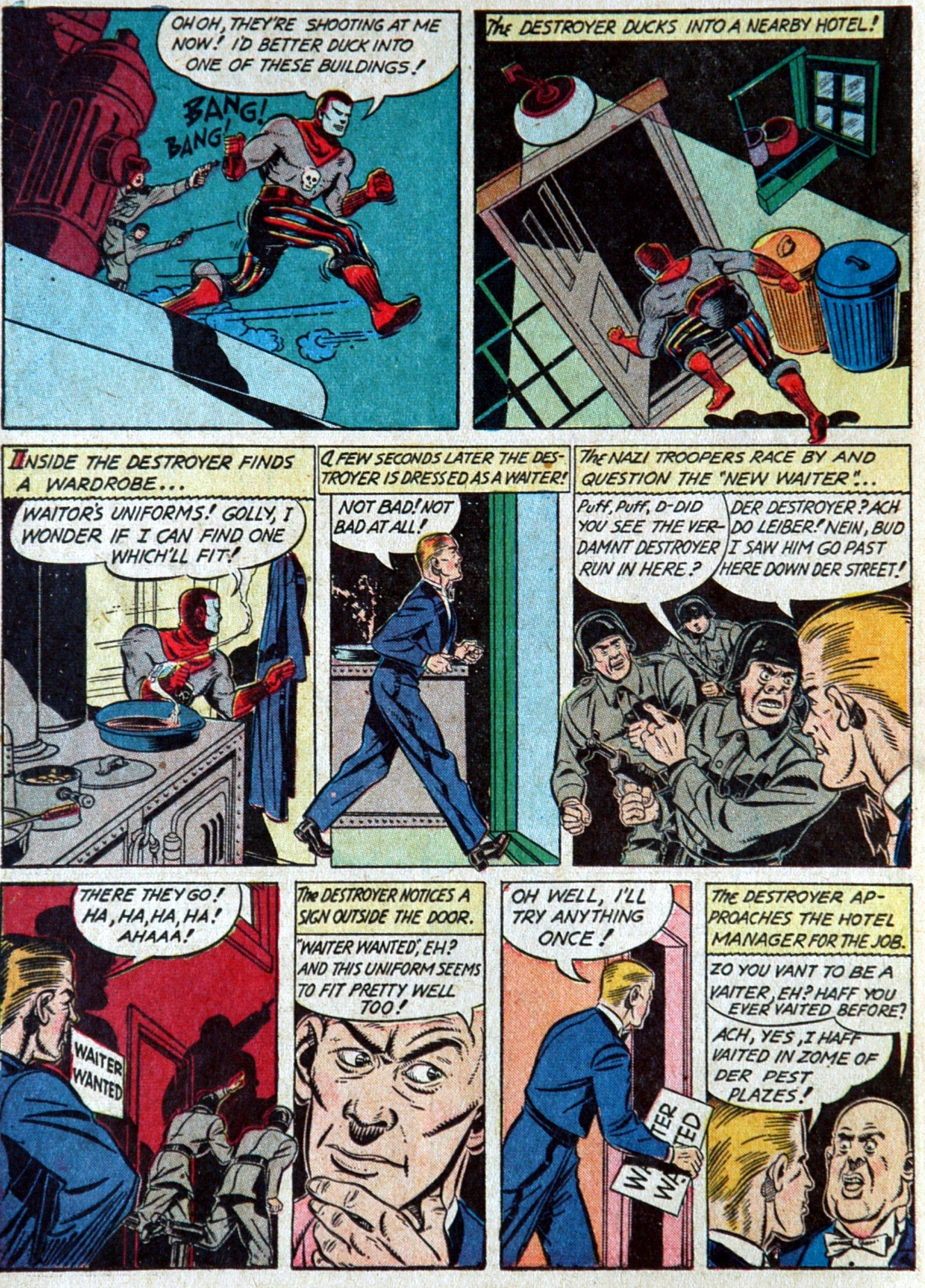
On Sale ON OR ABOUT

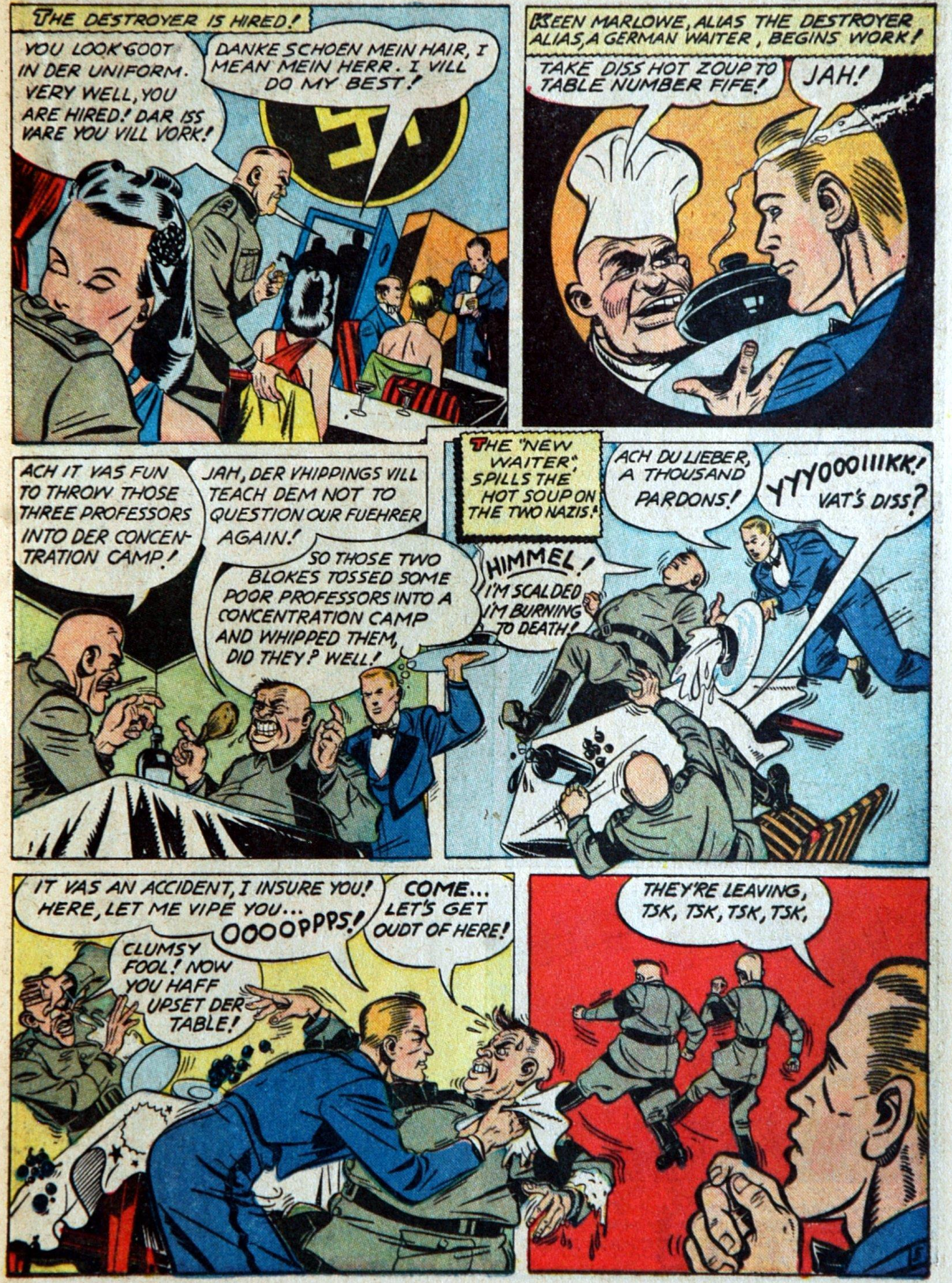
NOV. 25TH.

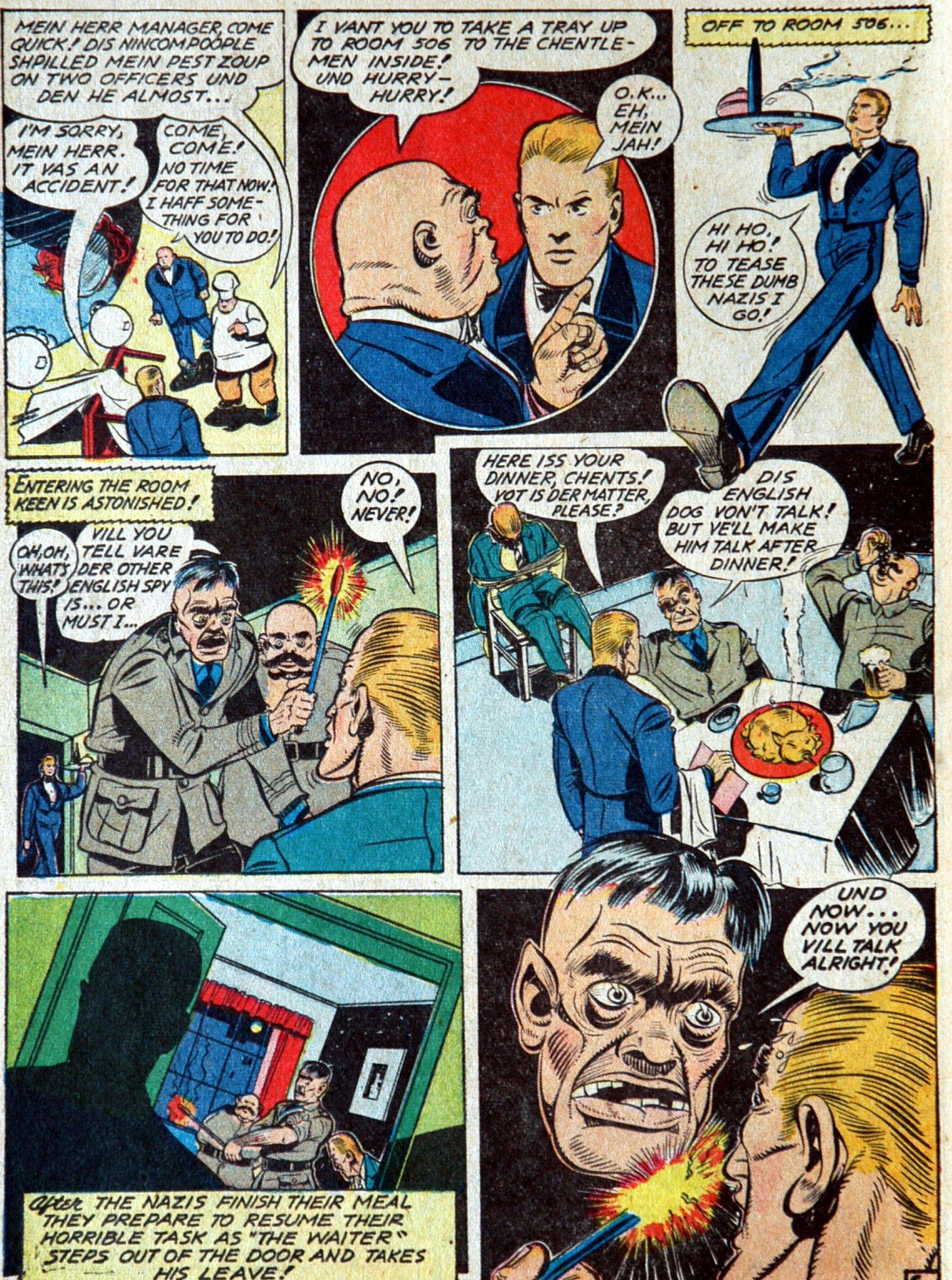

Story by STAN LEE
The DESTROYER
ONCE AGAIN THE HEROIC FIGURE OF THE DESTROYER APPEARS IN NAZI GERMANY, FIGHTING AGAINST THE TERROR AND SAVAGERY OF THE NAZIS! ONCE AGAIN THE DESTROYER TAKES HIS VERY LIFE IN HIS HANDS AS HE SALLIES FORTH TO DO BATTLE WITH THE BLOOD-THIRSTY LEGIONS OF A MAD DICTATOR! FOLLOW THE DESTROYER'S NEWEST ADVENTURE, AN ADVENTURE WHICH HAS IT'S CLIMAX IN A MEETING BETWEEN THE DESTROYER AND THE MAD HITLER HIMSELF!

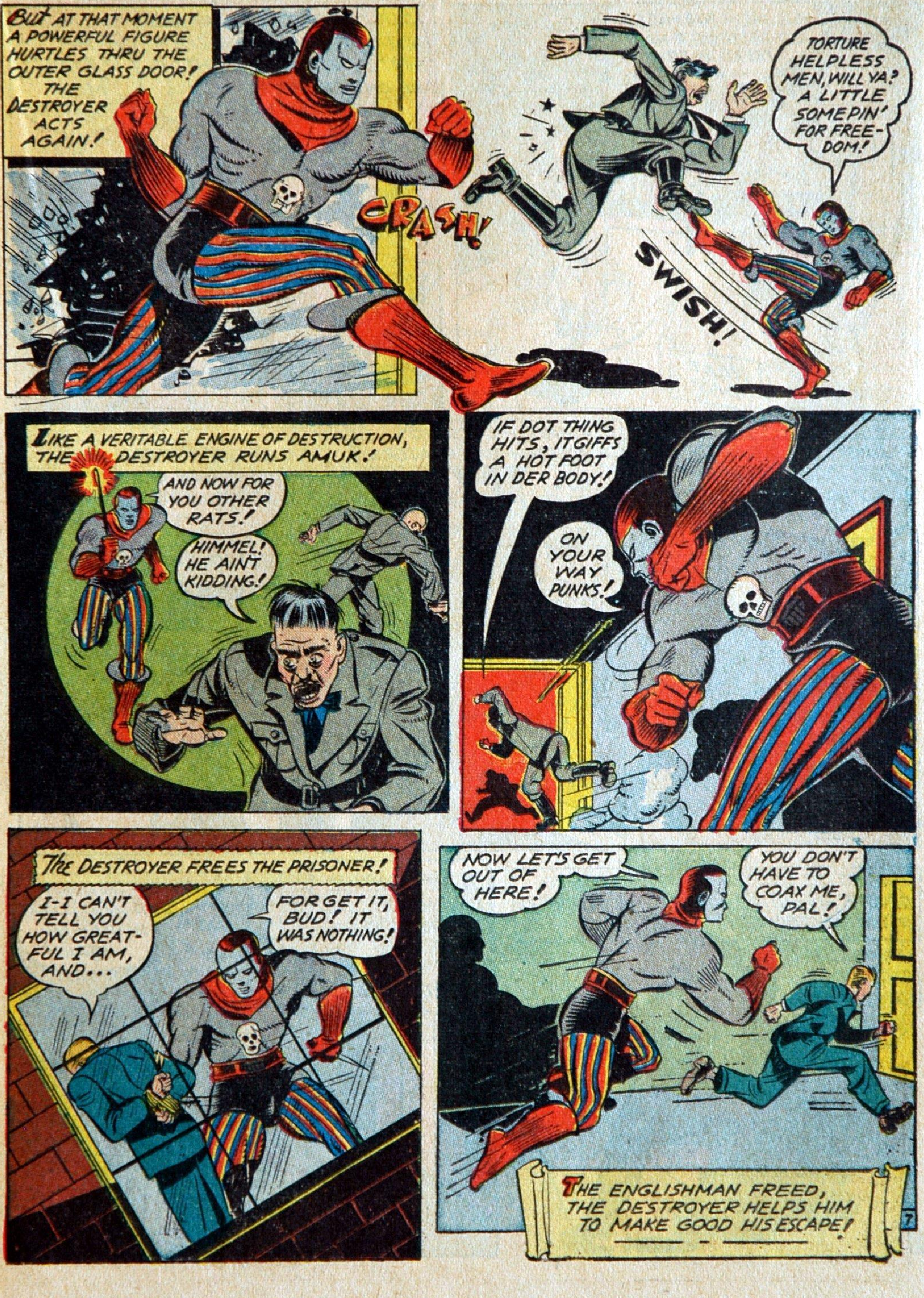

AS OUR STORY OPENS, WE FIND SOME NAZI TROOPERS DRAGGING A GERMAN THRU THE STREETS OF BERLIN...
VE'LL TEACH HIM TO PAINT DER LETTER "V" ON BUILDINGS!
JAH, VE'LL GIFF HIM A GOOT LESSON!
TAKE DIS... AND DIS!
CRACK
THE BESTIAL NAZIS, PROCEED TO BEAT THE CAPTURED MAN!
DIS IS VOT VE GIFF TO DOSE WHO DARE WRITE "V" IN GERMANY!
THUD!
AT THAT MOMENT, KEEN MARLOWE, IDLE TOURIST, ARRIVES ON THE SCENE.....
WHAT THE... THAT MAN IS BEING BRUTALLY BEATEN!
KEEN RACES INTO A NEARBY ALLEY!
IT'S ONLY BECAUSE HE DREW A "V" ON A BUILDING!
FROM THE ALLEY INTO WHICH IDLE KEEN MARLOWE WENT, THE MIGHTY FORM OF THE DESTROYER EMERGES READY FOR ACTION!
THEY'RE PRETTY BRAVE AGAINST ONE LONE GERMAN.... WE'LL SEE HOW THEY DO AGAINST THE DESTROYER!
2

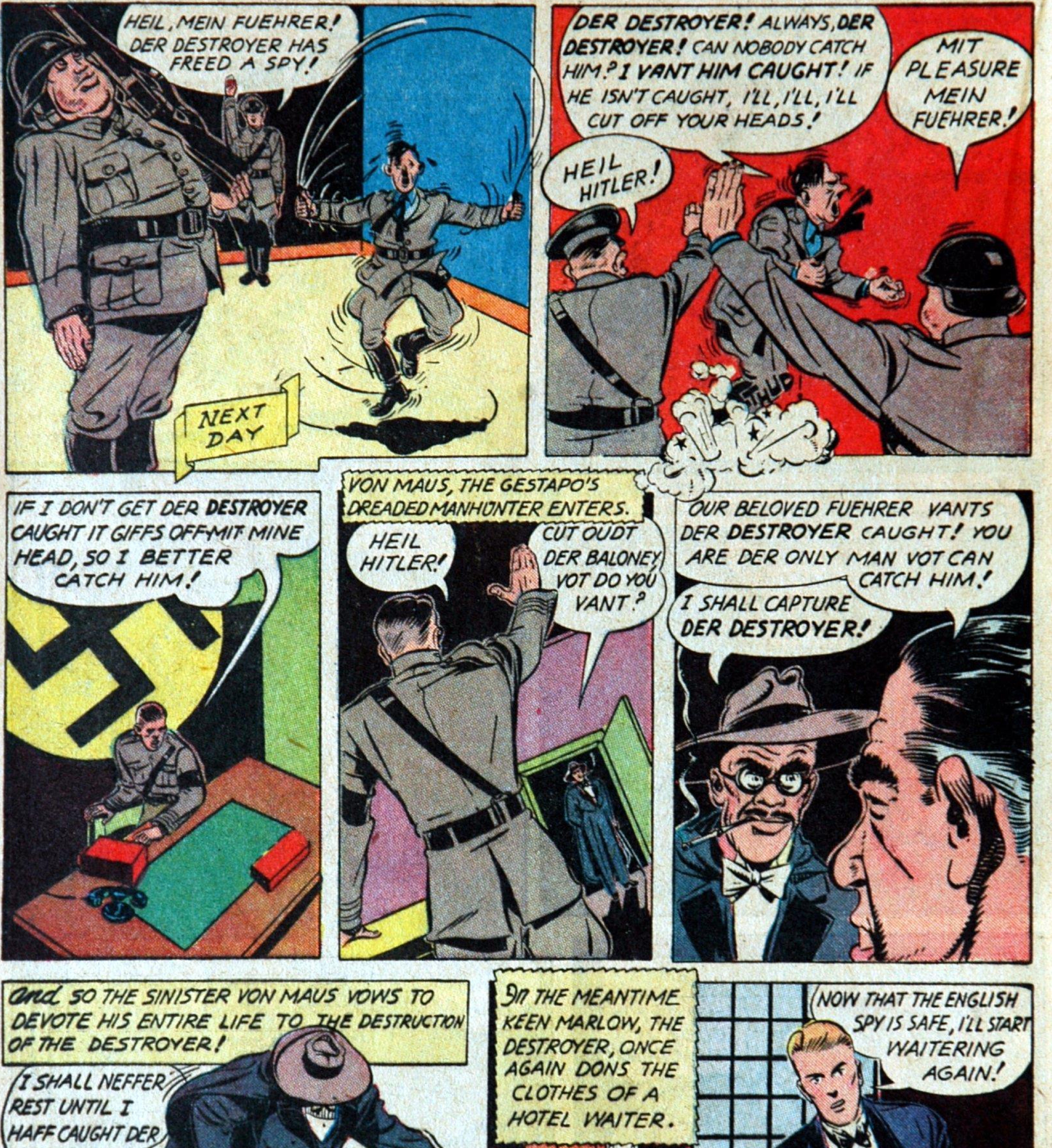

THIS PLEASES ME VERY MUCH!
BOMP!
HIMMEL! DER DESTROYER!
DON'T CHUST LOOK AT HIM! GET HIM! KILL HIM!
YES, COME AND GET ME!
OR BETTER STILL, I'LL GO AND GET YOU!
SPLAT!
GO AHEAD PAL, GET AWAY WHILE YOU CAN!
THANK YOU, HERR DESTROYER, AND BLESS YOU!
WELL, THAT FELLOW MUST HAVE GOTTEN AWAY BY NOW! I'M SCRAMMING!
CATCH HIM! DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!

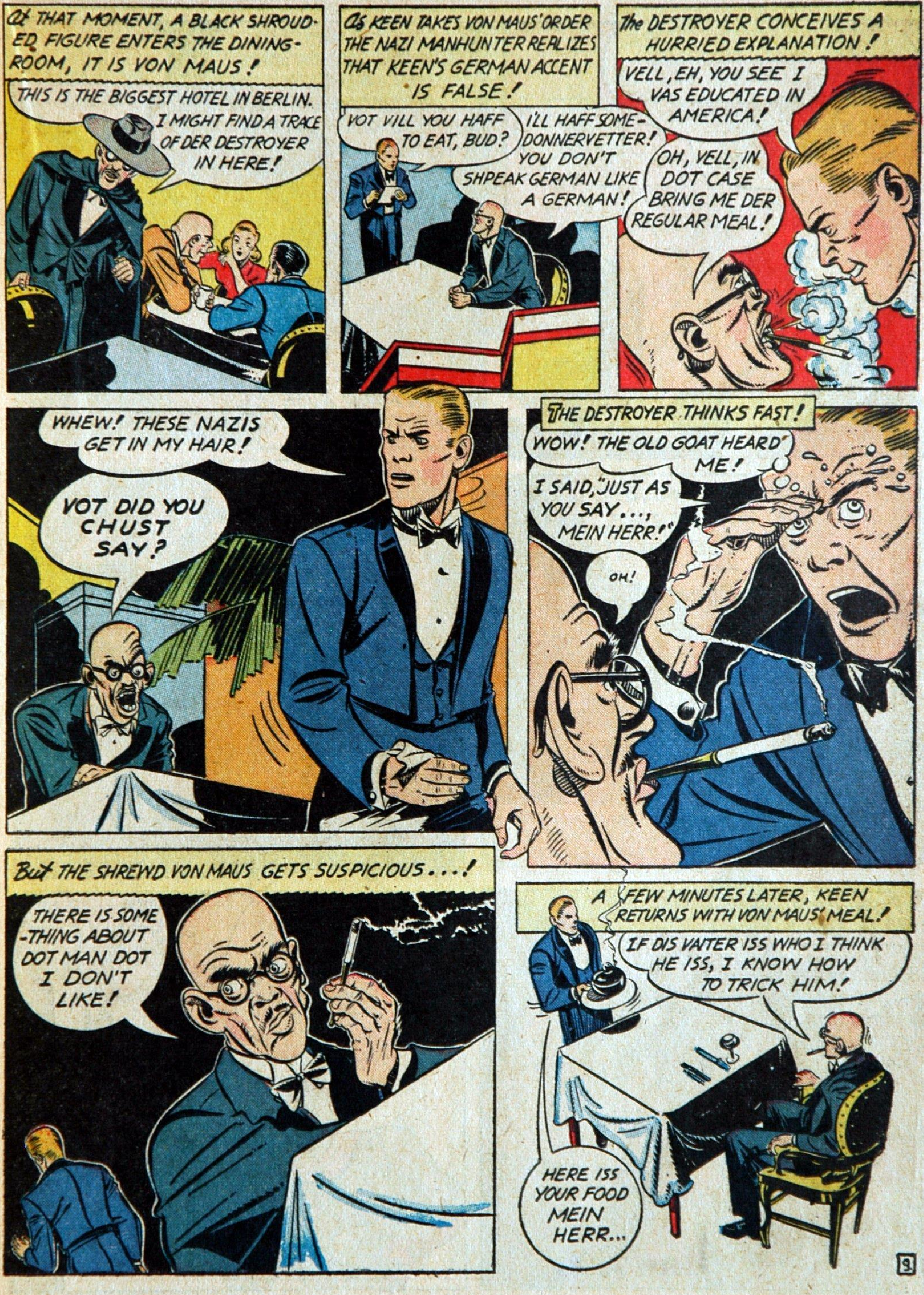

OH OH, THEY'RE SHOOTING AT ME NOW! I'D BETTER DUCK INTO ONE OF THESE BUILDINGS!
BANG! BANG!
The DESTROYER DUCKS INTO A NEARBY HOTEL!
INSIDE THE DESTROYER FINDS A WARDROBE...
WAITOR'S UNIFORMS! GOLLY, I WONDER IF I CAN FIND ONE WHICH'LL FIT!
A FEW SECONDS LATER THE DESTROYER IS DRESSED AS A WAITER!
NOT BAD! NOT BAD AT ALL!
The NAZI TROOPERS RACE BY AND QUESTION THE "NEW WAITER"...
Puff, Puff, D-DID YOU SEE THE VERDAMNT DESTROYER RUN IN HERE.?
DER DESTROYER? ACH DO LEIBER! NEIN, BUD I SAW HIM GO PAST HERE DOWN DER STREET!
THERE THEY GO! HA, HA, HA, HA! AHAAA!
WAITER WANTED
The DESTROYER NOTICES A SIGN OUTSIDE THE DOOR.
"WAITER WANTED", EH? AND THIS UNIFORM SEEMS TO FIT PRETTY WELL TOO!
OH WELL, I'LL TRY ANYTHING ONCE!
WAITER WANTED
The DESTROYER APPROACHES THE HOTEL MANAGER FOR THE JOB.
ZO YOU VANT TO BE A VAITER, EH? HAFF YOU EVER VAITED BEFORE?
ACH, YES, I HAFF VAITED IN ZOME OF DER PEST PLAZES!

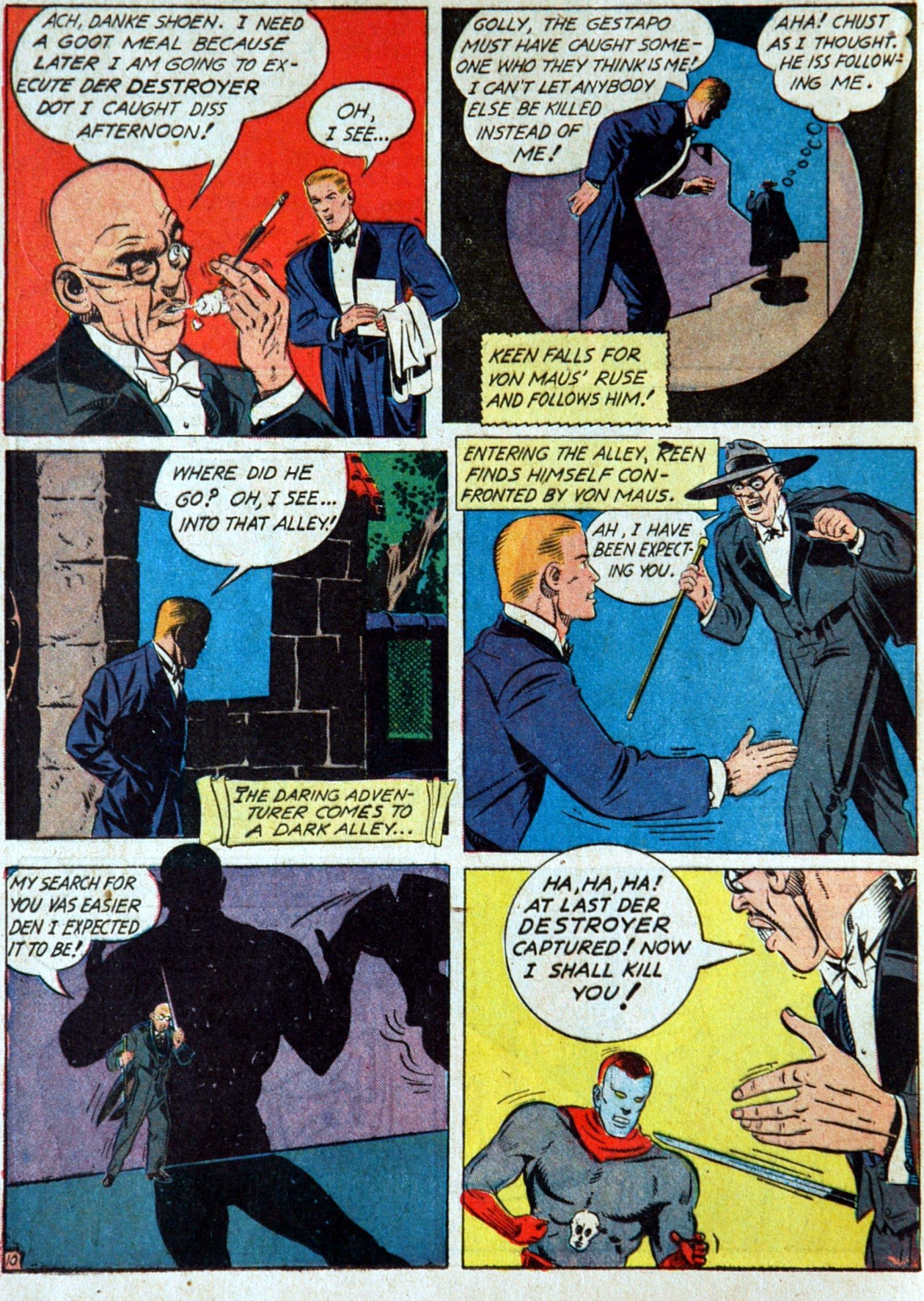

THE DESTROYER IS HIRED!
YOU LOOK GOOT IN DER UNIFORM. VERY WELL, YOU ARE HIRED! DAR ISS VARE YOU VILL VORK!
DANKE SCHOEN MEIN HAIR, I MEAN MEIN HERR. I VILL DO MY BEST!
KEEN MARLOWE, ALIAS THE DESTROYER ALIAS, A GERMAN WAITER, BEGINS WORK!
TAKE DISS HOT ZOUP TO TABLE NUMBER FIFE!
JAH!
ACH IT VAS FUN TO THROW THOSE THREE PROFESSORS INTO DER CONCENTRATION CAMP!
JAH, DER VHIPPINGS VILL TEACH DEM NOT TO QUESTION OUR FUEHRER AGAIN!
SO THOSE TWO BLOKES TOSSED SOME POOR PROFESSORS INTO A CONCENTRATION CAMP AND WHIPPED THEM, DID THEY? WELL!
THE "NEW WAITER", SPILLS THE HOT SOUP ON THE TWO NAZIS!
ACH DU LIEBER, A THOUSAND PARDONS!
YYYOOOIIIKK! VAT'S DISS?
HIMMEL! I'M SCALDED I'M BURNING TO DEATH!
IT VAS AN ACCIDENT, I INSURE YOU! HERE, LET ME VIPE YOU... OOOOPPPS!
COME... LET'S GET OUDT OF HERE!
CLUMSY FOOL! NOW YOU HAFF UPSET DER TABLE!
THEY'RE LEAVING, TSK, TSK, TSK, TSK.


MEIN HERR MANAGER, COME QUICK! DIS NINCOMPOOPLE SHPILLED MEIN PEST ZOUP ON TWO OFFICERS UND DEN HE ALMOST...
I'M SORRY, MEIN HERR. IT VAS AN ACCIDENT!
COME, COME! NO TIME FOR THAT NOW! I HAFF SOMETHING FOR YOU TO DO!
I VANT YOU TO TAKE A TRAY UP TO ROOM 506 TO THE CHENTLEMEN INSIDE! UND HURRY-HURRY!
O.K... EH, MEIN JAH!
OFF TO ROOM 506...
HI HO, HI HO! TO TEASE THESE DUMB NAZIS I GO!
ENTERING THE ROOM KEEN IS ASTONISHED!
OH, OH, WHAT'S THIS!
VILL YOU TELL VARE DER OTHER ENGLISH SPY IS... OR MUST I...
NO, NO! NEVER!
HERE ISS YOUR DINNER, CHENTS! VOT IS DER MATTER, PLEASE?
DIS ENGLISH DOG VON'T TALK! BUT VE'LL MAKE HIM TALK AFTER DINNER!
AFTER THE NAZIS FINISH THEIR MEAL THEY PREPARE TO RESUME THEIR HORRIBLE TASK AS "THE WAITER" STEPS OUT OF THE DOOR AND TAKES HIS LEAVE!
UND NOW... NOW YOU VILL TALK ALRIGHT!
6

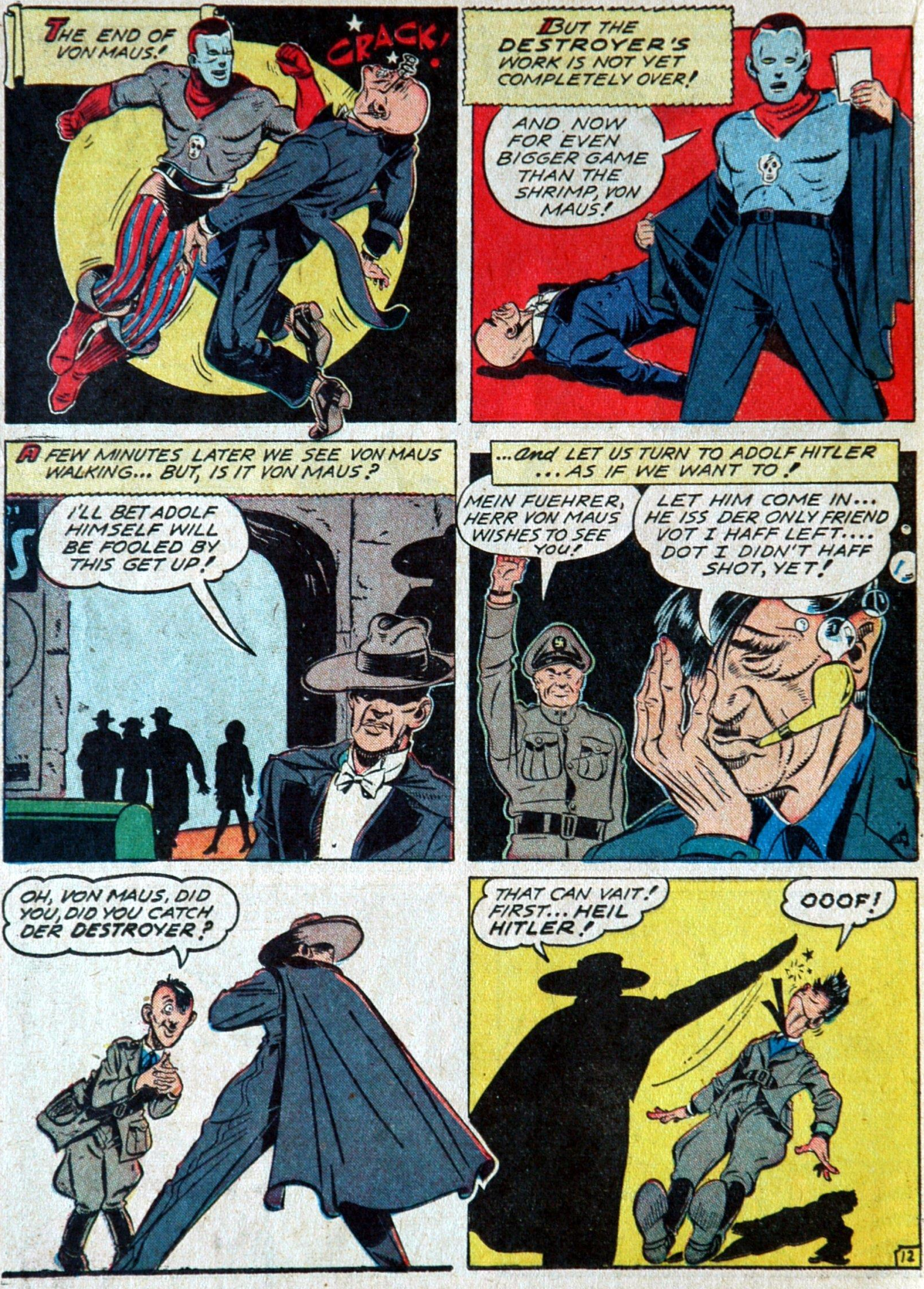

But AT THAT MOMENT A POWERFUL FIGURE HURTLES THRU THE OUTER GLASS DOOR! THE DESTROYER ACTS AGAIN!
CRASH!
TORTURE HELPLESS MEN, WILL YA? A LITTLE SOMEPIN' FOR FREE-DOM!
SWISH!
LIKE A VERITABLE ENGINE OF DESTRUCTION, THE DESTROYER RUNS AMUK!
AND NOW FOR YOU OTHER RATS!
HIMMEL! HE AIN'T KIDDING!
IF DOT THING HITS, IT GIFFS A HOT FOOT IN DER BODY!
ON YOUR WAY PUNKS!
The DESTROYER FREES THE PRISONER!
I-I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW GREAT-FUL I AM, AND...
FOR GET IT, BUD! IT WAS NOTHING!
NOW LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO COAX ME, PAL!
THE ENGLISHMAN FREED, THE DESTROYER HELPS HIM TO MAKE GOOD HIS ESCAPE!

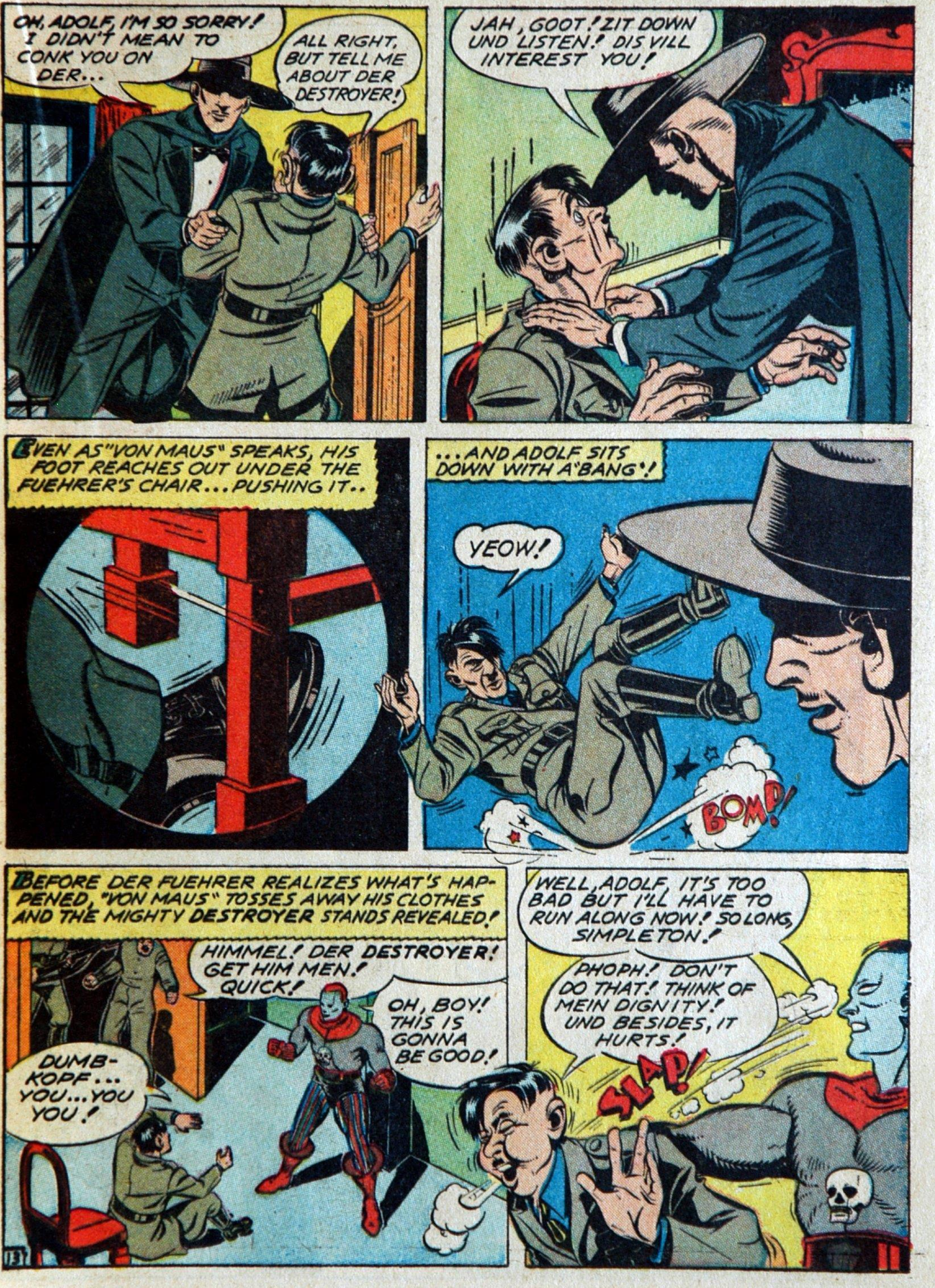

HEIL, MEIN FUEHRER! DER DESTROYER HAS FREED A SPY!
NEXT DAY
DER DESTROYER! ALWAYS, DER DESTROYER! CAN NOBODY CATCH HIM? I VANT HIM CAUGHT! IF HE ISN'T CAUGHT, I'LL, I'LL, I'LL CUT OFF YOUR HEADS!
MIT PLEASURE MEIN FUEHRER!
HEIL HITLER!
THUD
IF I DON'T GET DER DESTROYER CAUGHT IT GIFFS OFF MIT MINE HEAD, SO I BETTER CATCH HIM!
VON MAUS, THE GESTAPO'S DREADED MANHUNTER ENTERS.
HEIL HITLER!
CUT OUDT DER BALONEY VOT DO YOU VANT?
OUR BELOVED FUEHRER VANTS DER DESTROYER CAUGHT! YOU ARE DER ONLY MAN VOT CAN CATCH HIM!
I SHALL CAPTURE DER DESTROYER!
And SO THE SINISTER VON MAUS VOWS TO DEVOTE HIS ENTIRE LIFE TO THE DESTRUCTION OF THE DESTROYER!
I SHALL NEFFER REST UNTIL I HAFF CAUGHT DER DESTROYER!
In THE MEANTIME KEEN MARLOW, THE DESTROYER, ONCE AGAIN DONS THE CLOTHES OF A HOTEL WAITER.
NOW THAT THE ENGLISH SPY IS SAFE, I'LL START WAITERING AGAIN!

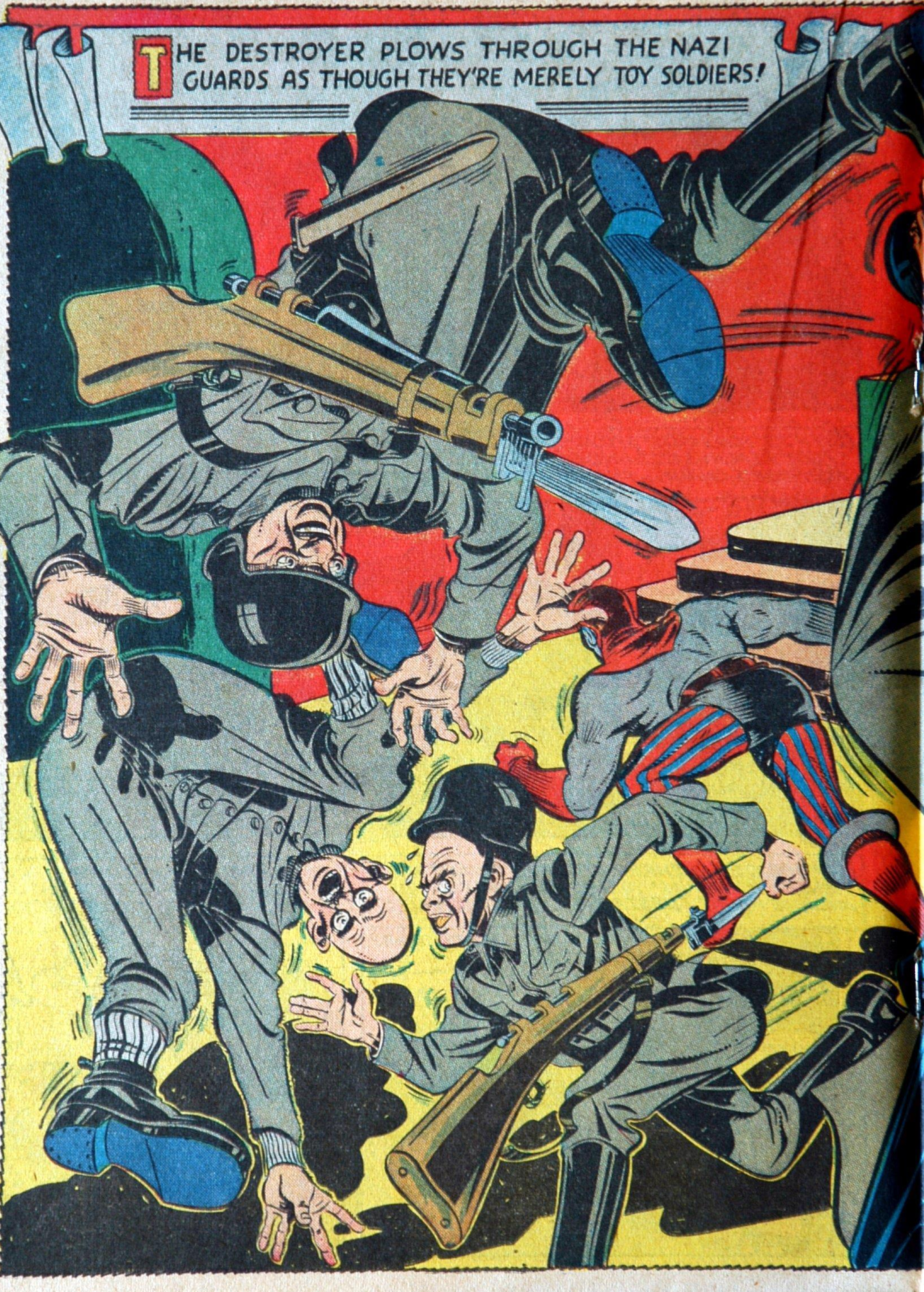

AT THAT MOMENT, A BLACK SHROUDED FIGURE ENTERS THE DINING-ROOM, IT IS VON MAUS!
THIS IS THE BIGGEST HOTEL IN BERLIN. I MIGHT FIND A TRACE OF DER DESTROYER IN HERE!
AS KEEN TAKES VON MAUS' ORDER THE NAZI MANHUNTER REALIZES THAT KEEN'S GERMAN ACCENT IS FALSE!
VOT VILL YOU HAFF TO EAT, BUD?
I'LL HAFF SOME-DONNERVETTER! YOU DON'T SHPEAK GERMAN LIKE A GERMAN!
THE DESTROYER CONCEIVES A HURRIED EXPLANATION!
VELL, EH, YOU SEE I VAS EDUCATED IN AMERICA!
OH, VELL, IN DOT CASE BRING ME DER REGULAR MEAL!
WHEW! THESE NAZIS GET IN MY HAIR!
VOT DID YOU CHUST SAY?
THE DESTROYER THINKS FAST!
WOW! THE OLD GOAT HEARD ME!
I SAID, "JUST AS YOU SAY..., MEIN HERR!"
OH!
BUT THE SHREWD VON MAUS GETS SUSPICIOUS...!
THERE IS SOME-THING ABOUT DOT MAN DOT I DON'T LIKE!
A FEW MINUTES LATER, KEEN RETURNS WITH VON MAUS' MEAL!
IF DIS VAITER ISS WHO I THINK HE ISS, I KNOW HOW TO TRICK HIM!
HERE ISS YOUR FOOD MEIN HERR...


ACH, DANKE SHOEN. I NEED A GOOT MEAL BECAUSE LATER I AM GOING TO EXECUTE DER DESTROYER DOT I CAUGHT DISS AFTERNOON!
OH, I SEE...
GOLLY, THE GESTAPO MUST HAVE CAUGHT SOMEONE WHO THEY THINK IS ME! I CAN'T LET ANYBODY ELSE BE KILLED INSTEAD OF ME!
AHA! CHUST AS I THOUGHT. HE ISS FOLLOWING ME.
KEEN FALLS FOR VON MAUS' RUSE AND FOLLOWS HIM!
WHERE DID HE GO? OH, I SEE... INTO THAT ALLEY!
THE DARING ADVENTURER COMES TO A DARK ALLEY...
ENTERING THE ALLEY, KEEN FINDS HIMSELF CONFRONTED BY VON MAUS.
AH, I HAVE BEEN EXPECTING YOU.
MY SEARCH FOR YOU VAS EASIER DEN I EXPECTED IT TO BE!
HA, HA, HA! AT LAST DER DESTROYER CAPTURED! NOW I SHALL KILL YOU!

BUT THE DESTROYER IS NOT TO BE CAUGHT NAPPING!
HA! GOT YOU!
OH NO YOU HAVEN'T YOU MESSY MANHUNTER!
TWO STRONG FISTS AGAINST A COLD STEEL BLADE IN A FIGHT TO THE FINISH! WHICH WILL TRIUMPH?
BUT HERE'S SOMETHING YOU CAN HAVE!
HOLD STILL A MOMENT SO I CAN VENTILATE YOU!
RIP!
CRACK!
TRY THIS ON YOUR VENTILATOR, YOU SAUERKRAUT!
ACH, YOU HAFF MORE LUCK DEN DER CHERMAN ARMY!
FINALLY, A RED GARBED FOOT LASHES OUT IN A DEMONIACAL KICK AND....

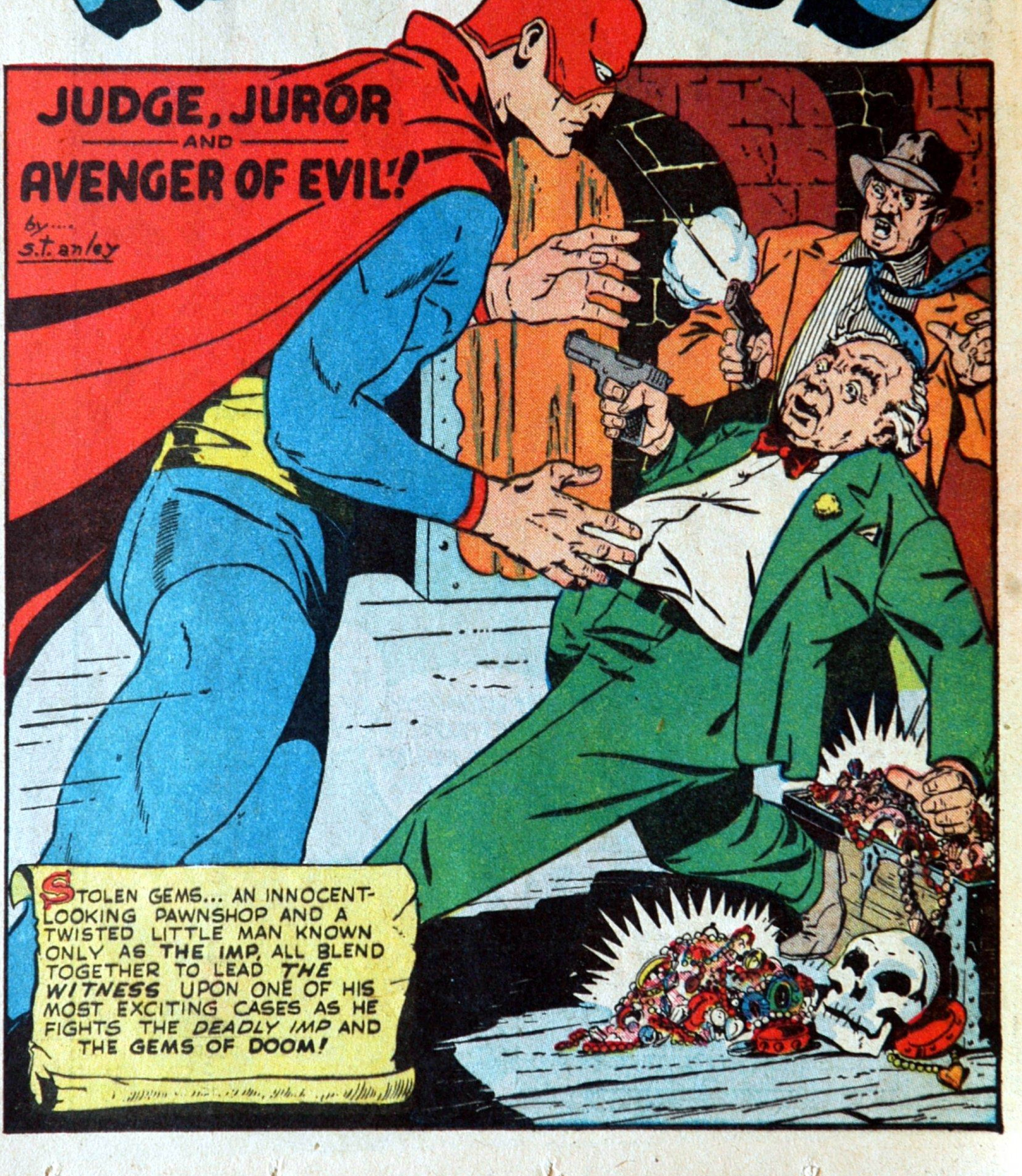

THE END OF VON MAUS!
CRACK!
BUT THE DESTROYER'S WORK IS NOT YET COMPLETELY OVER!
AND NOW FOR EVEN BIGGER GAME THAN THE SHRIMP, VON MAUS!
A FEW MINUTES LATER WE SEE VON MAUS WALKING... BUT, IS IT VON MAUS?
I'LL BET ADOLF HIMSELF WILL BE FOOLED BY THIS GET UP!
...and LET US TURN TO ADOLF HITLER ...AS IF WE WANT TO!
MEIN FUEHRER, HERR VON MAUS WISHES TO SEE YOU!
LET HIM COME IN... HE ISS DER ONLY FRIEND VOT I HAFF LEFT.... DOT I DIDN'T HAFF SHOT, YET!
OH, VON MAUS, DID YOU, DID YOU CATCH DER DESTROYER?
THAT CAN VAIT! FIRST... HEIL HITLER!
OOOF!
12

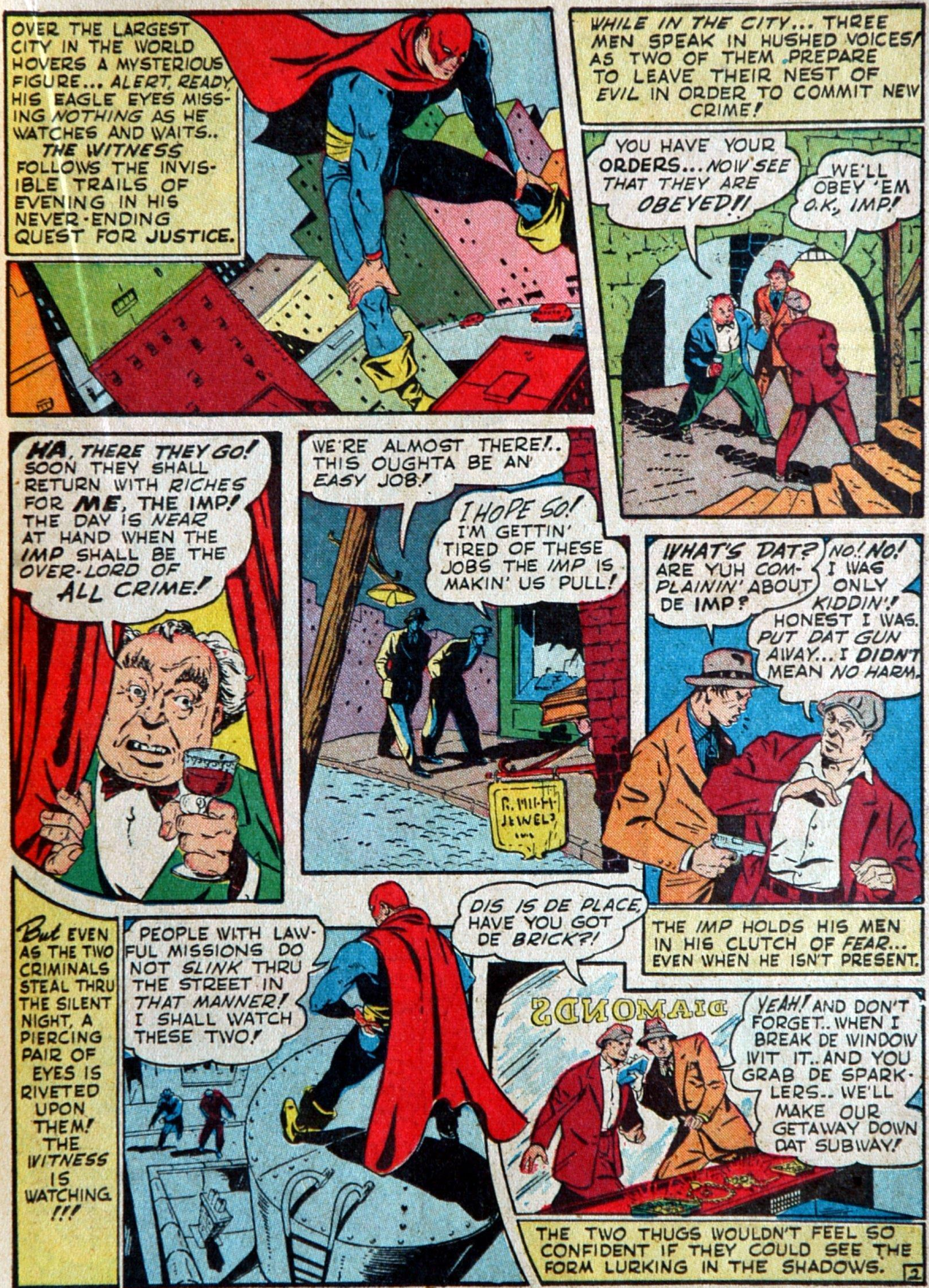

OH, ADOLF, I'M SO SORRY! I DIDN'T MEAN TO CONK YOU ON DER...
ALL RIGHT, BUT TELL ME ABOUT DER DESTROYER!
JAH, GOOT! ZIT DOWN UND LISTEN! DIS VILL INTEREST YOU!
EVEN AS "VON MAUS" SPEAKS, HIS FOOT REACHES OUT UNDER THE FUEHRER'S CHAIR... PUSHING IT..
...AND ADOLF SITS DOWN WITH A "BANG"!
YEOW!
BOMP!
BEFORE DER FUEHRER REALIZES WHAT'S HAPPENED, "VON MAUS" TOSSES AWAY HIS CLOTHES AND THE MIGHTY DESTROYER STANDS REVEALED!
HIMMEL! DER DESTROYER! GET HIM MEN! QUICK!
OH, BOY! THIS IS GONNA BE GOOD!
DUMBKOPF... YOU... YOU YOU!
WELL, ADOLF, IT'S TOO BAD BUT I'LL HAVE TO RUN ALONG NOW! SO LONG, SIMPLETON!
PHOPH! DON'T DO THAT! THINK OF MEIN DIGNITY! UND BESIDES, IT HURTS!
SLAP!
13

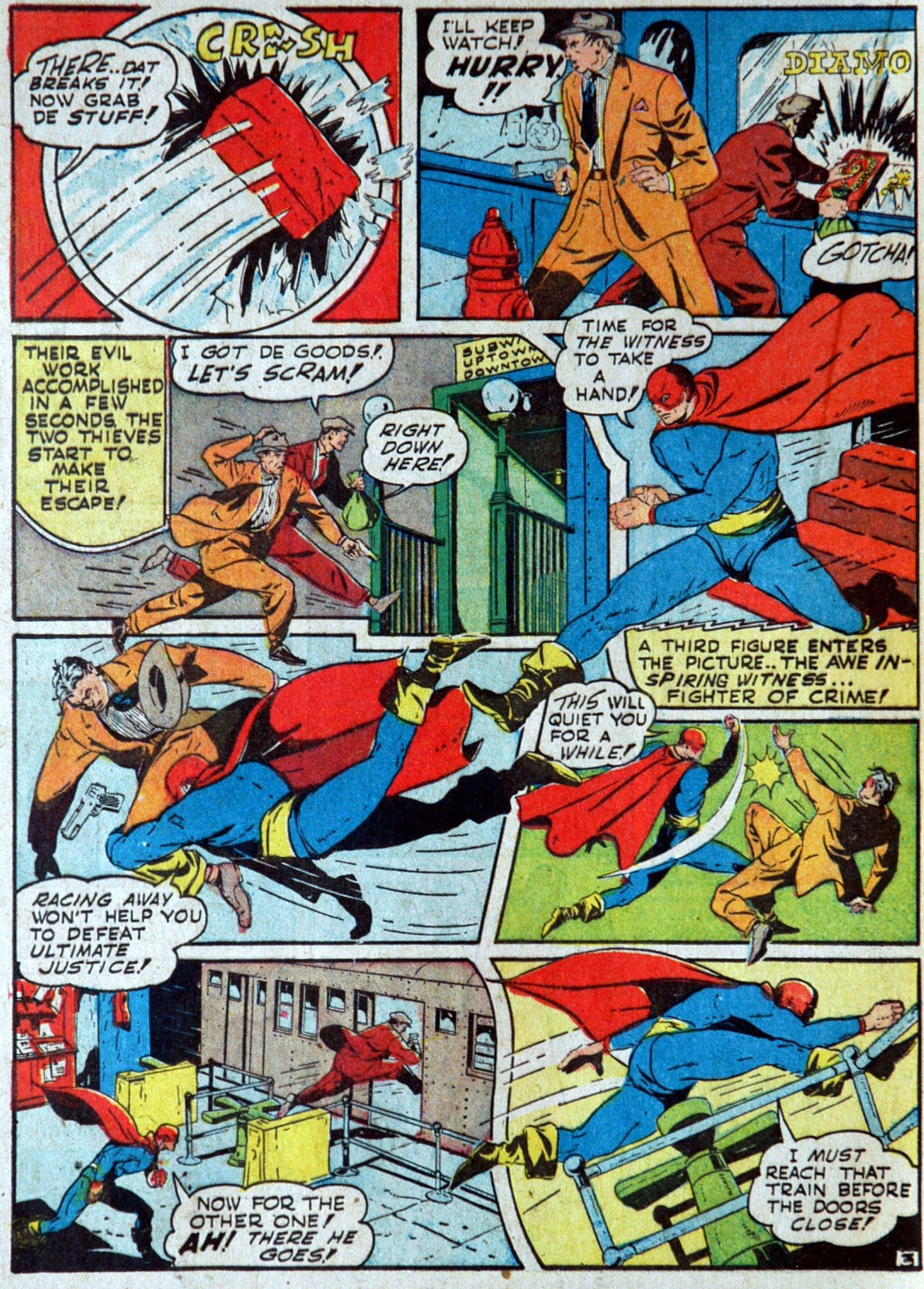

THE DESTROYER PLOWS THROUGH THE NAZI GUARDS AS THOUGH THEY'RE MERELY TOY SOLDIERS!

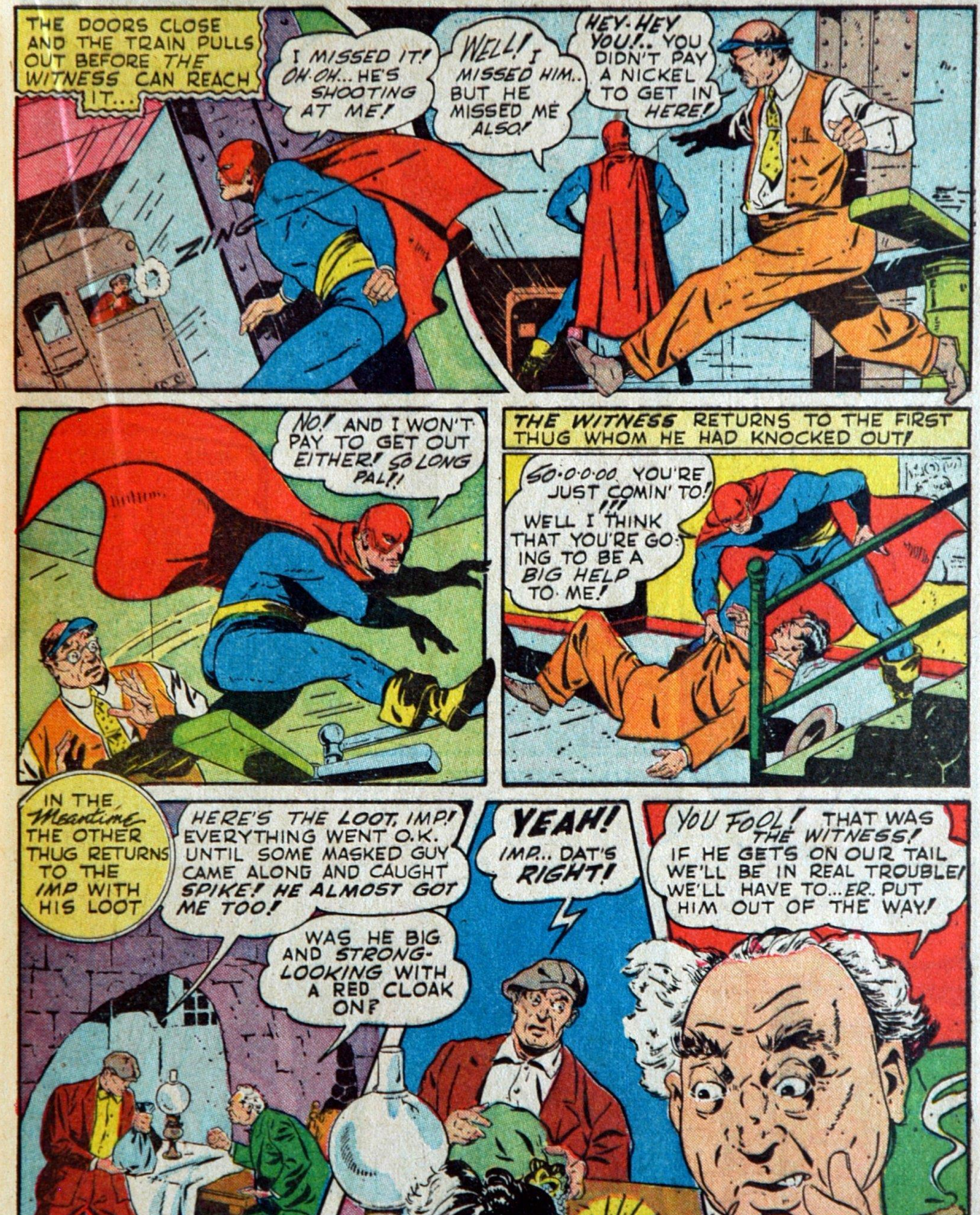
AS HITLER AND VON MAUS WATCH THE DESTROYER RACE AWAY TO FREEDOM, THEY DON'T SEE THE NOTE WHICH HE HAD PUT ON THE BACK OF ADOLPH'S UNIFORM! THE MARK OF THE **DESTROYER**!
READ MORE OF THE DESTROYER'S THRILLING ADVENTURES IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF **MYSTIC COMICS**!
I'M UNHAPPY! DER **DESTROYER** GOT AVAY AGAIN! OH, I VISH I VAS DEAD!
SO DO MILLIONS OF OTHER PEOPLE!
V DESTROYER
THE END
V

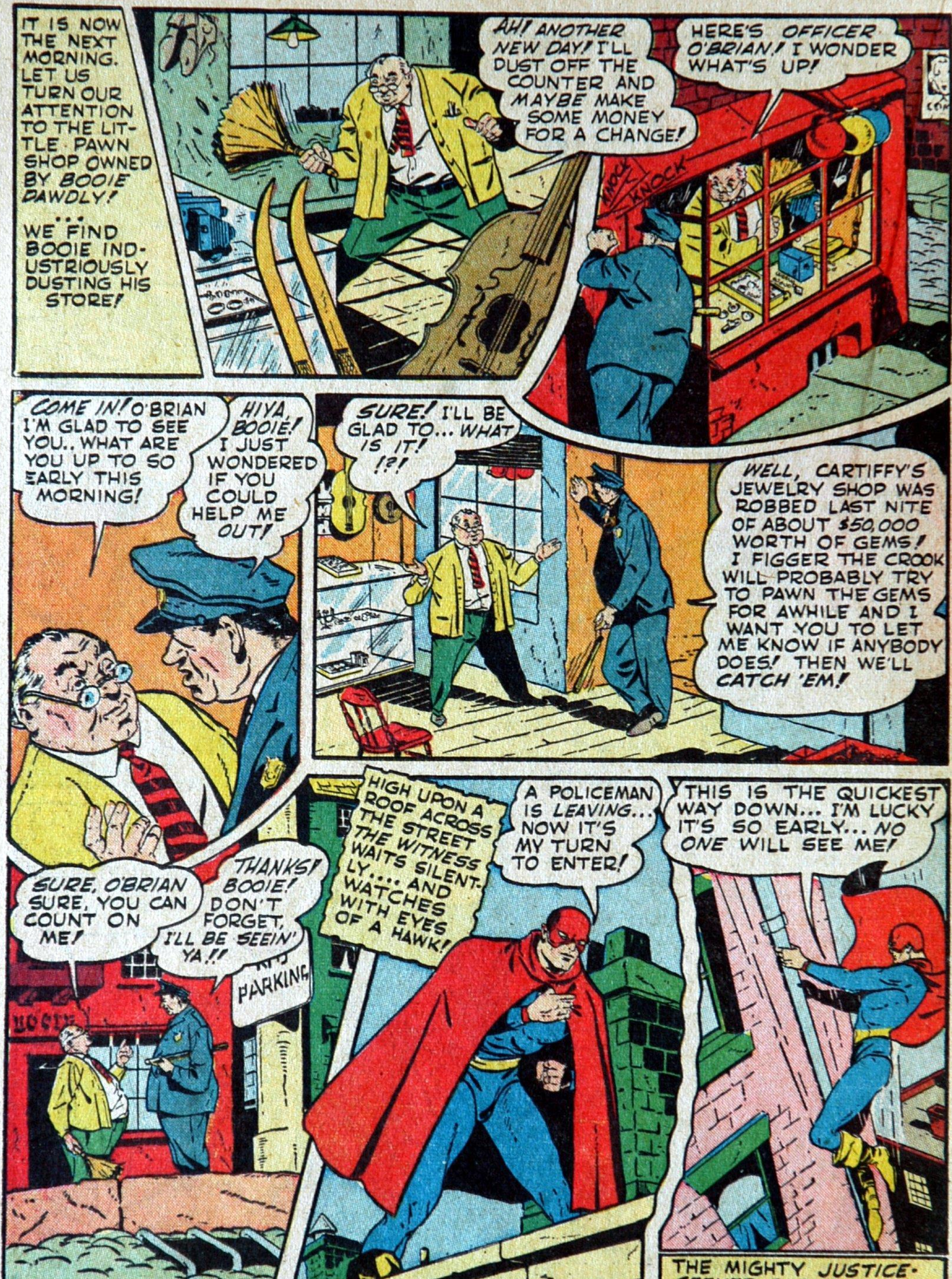
The WITNESS

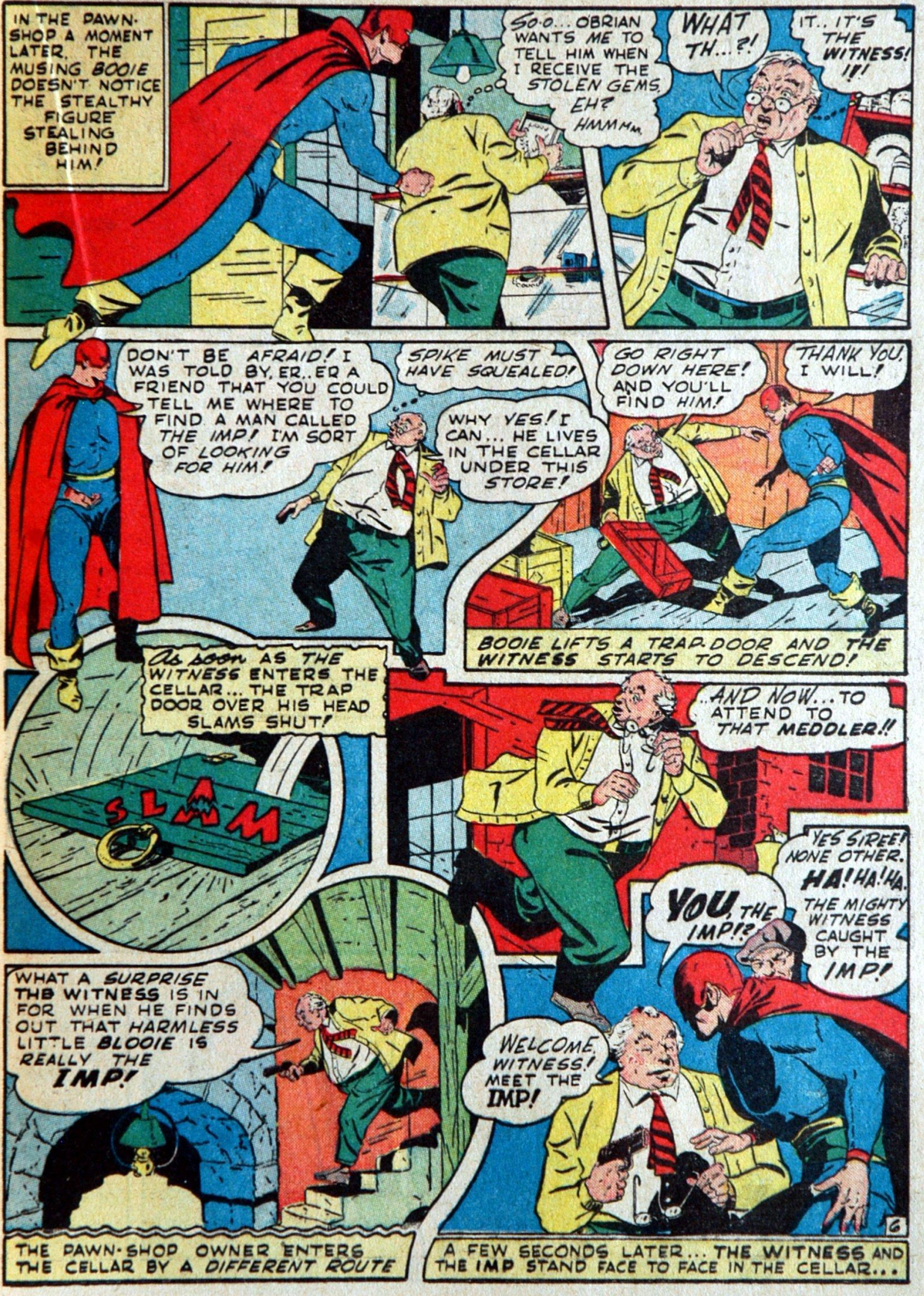

JUDGE, JUROR AND AVENGER OF EVIL!
by.... s.t.anley
STOLEN GEMS... AN INNOCENT-LOOKING PAWNSHOP AND A TWISTED LITTLE MAN KNOWN ONLY AS THE IMP, ALL BLEND TOGETHER TO LEAD THE WITNESS UPON ONE OF HIS MOST EXCITING CASES AS HE FIGHTS THE DEADLY IMP AND THE GEMS OF DOOM!

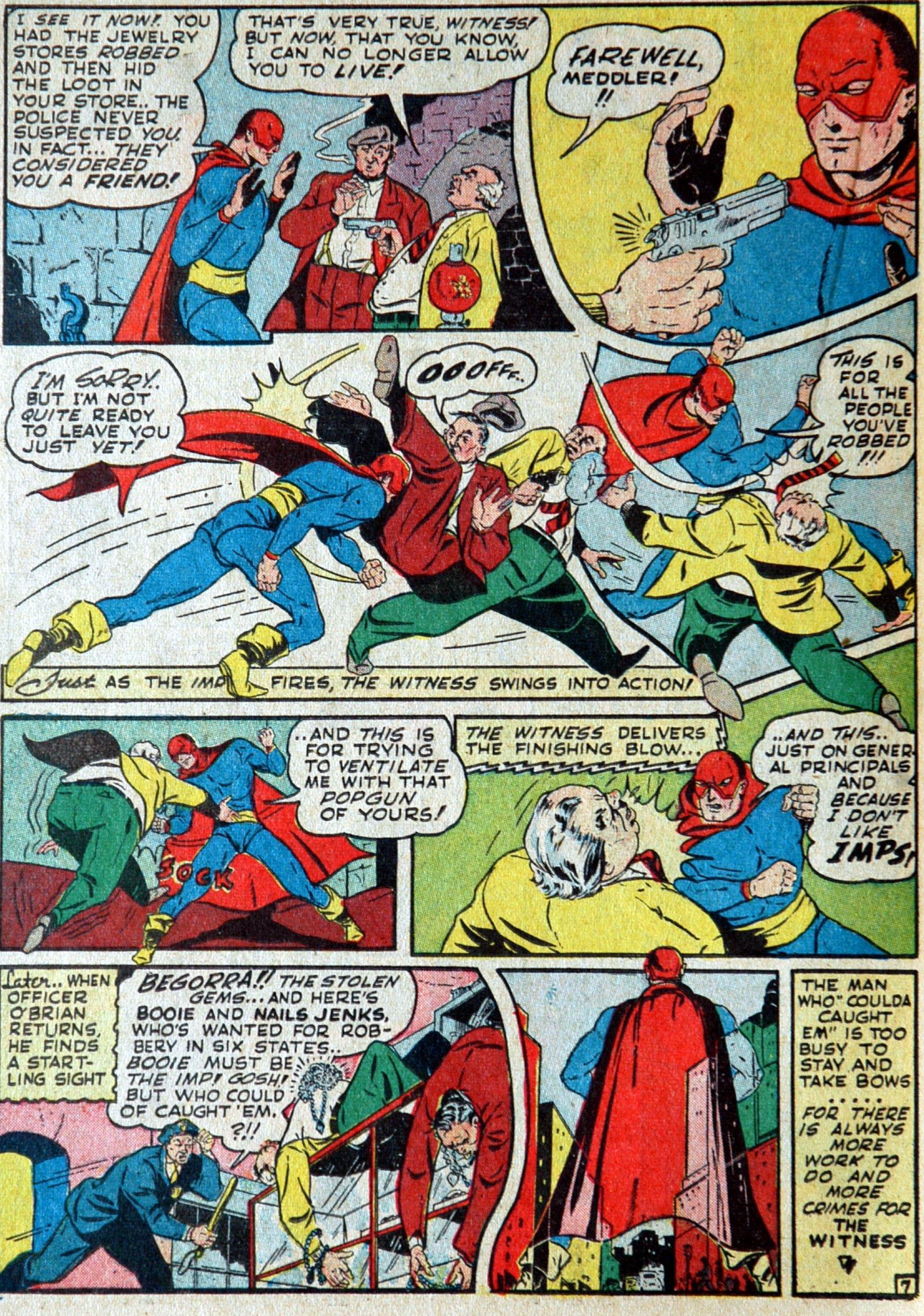

OVER THE LARGEST CITY IN THE WORLD HOVERS A MYSTERIOUS FIGURE... *ALERT, READY*, HIS EAGLE EYES MISSING *NOTHING* AS HE WATCHES AND WAITS.. *THE WITNESS* FOLLOWS THE INVISIBLE TRAILS OF EVENING IN HIS NEVER-ENDING QUEST FOR **JUSTICE**.
WHILE IN THE CITY... THREE MEN SPEAK IN HUSHED VOICES! AS TWO OF THEM PREPARE TO LEAVE THEIR NEST OF *EVIL* IN ORDER TO COMMIT NEW CRIME!
YOU HAVE YOUR **ORDERS**... *NOW SEE THAT THEY ARE* ***OBEYED!!***
WE'LL OBEY 'EM O.K., *IMP!*
HA**, THERE THEY GO!* SOON THEY SHALL RETURN WITH *RICHES* FOR **ME**, THE IMP! THE DAY IS *NEAR* AT HAND WHEN THE *IMP* SHALL BE THE *OVER-LORD OF* ***ALL CRIME!
WE'RE ALMOST THERE!.. THIS OUGHTA BE AN *EASY JOB!*
I HOPE SO! I'M GETTIN' TIRED OF THESE JOBS THE *IMP* IS MAKIN' US PULL!
WHAT'S DAT? ARE YUH *COMPLAININ'* ABOUT DE IMP?
*NO! **NO!*** I WAS ONLY *KIDDIN'!* HONEST I WAS. *PUT DAT GUN AWAY*... I **DIDN'T** MEAN *NO HARM*.
But EVEN AS THE TWO CRIMINALS STEAL THRU THE SILENT NIGHT, A PIERCING PAIR OF EYES IS RIVETED UPON THEM! THE *WITNESS* IS WATCHING *!!!*
PEOPLE WITH LAWFUL MISSIONS DO NOT *SLINK* THRU THE STREET IN *THAT MANNER!* I SHALL WATCH THESE TWO!
DIS IS DE PLACE, HAVE YOU GOT DE BRICK?!
THE *IMP* HOLDS HIS MEN IN HIS CLUTCH OF *FEAR*... EVEN WHEN HE ISN'T PRESENT.
DIAMONDS
YEAH! AND DON'T FORGET.. WHEN I BREAK DE WINDOW WIT IT.. AND YOU GRAB DE SPARKLERS.. WE'LL MAKE OUR GETAWAY DOWN DAT SUBWAY!
THE TWO THUGS WOULDN'T FEEL SO CONFIDENT IF THEY COULD SEE THE FORM LURKING IN THE SHADOWS.


CRE-SH
THERE.. DAT BREAKS IT! NOW GRAB DE STUFF!
I'LL KEEP WATCH! HURRY!!
DIAMO
GOTCHA!
THEIR EVIL WORK ACCOMPLISHED IN A FEW SECONDS, THE TWO THIEVES START TO MAKE THEIR ESCAPE!
I GOT DE GOODS! LET'S SCRAM!
SUBW UPTOWN DOWNTOW
RIGHT DOWN HERE!
TIME FOR THE WITNESS TO TAKE A HAND!
A THIRD FIGURE ENTERS THE PICTURE.. THE AWE INSPIRING WITNESS... FIGHTER OF CRIME!
THIS WILL QUIET YOU FOR A WHILE!
RACING AWAY WON'T HELP YOU TO DEFEAT ULTIMATE JUSTICE!
NOW FOR THE OTHER ONE! AH! THERE HE GOES!
I MUST REACH THAT TRAIN BEFORE THE DOORS CLOSE!

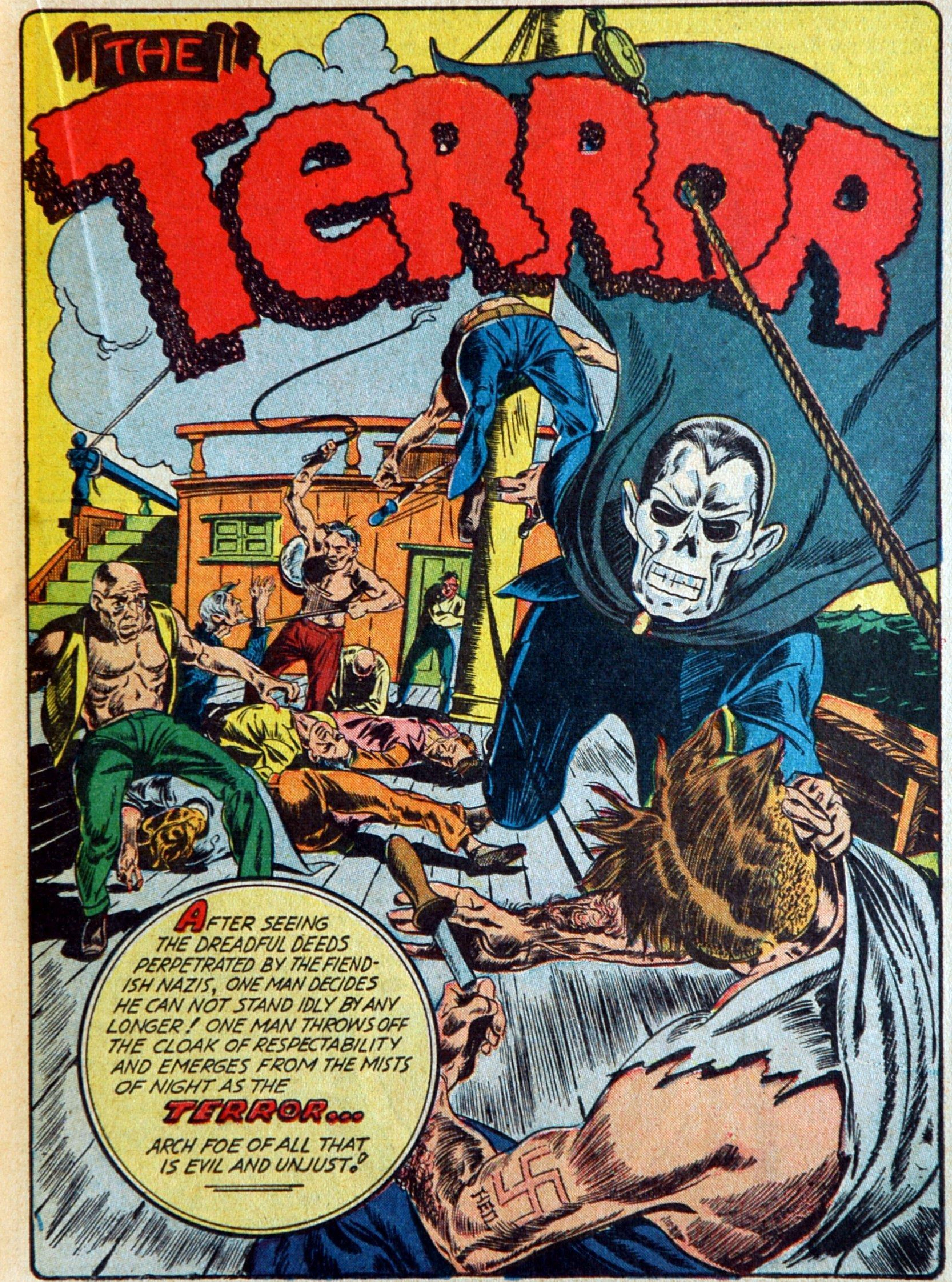

THE DOORS CLOSE AND THE TRAIN PULLS OUT BEFORE THE WITNESS CAN REACH IT...
I MISSED IT! OH-OH... HE'S SHOOTING AT ME!
ZING
WELL! I MISSED HIM.. BUT HE MISSED ME ALSO!
HEY-HEY YOU!.. YOU DIDN'T PAY A NICKEL TO GET IN HERE!
NO! AND I WON'T PAY TO GET OUT EITHER! SO LONG PAL!!
THE WITNESS RETURNS TO THE FIRST THUG WHOM HE HAD KNOCKED OUT!
SO·O·O·OO YOU'RE JUST COMIN' TO! !!! WELL I THINK THAT YOU'RE GOING TO BE A BIG HELP TO ME!
IN THE Meantime THE OTHER THUG RETURNS TO THE IMP WITH HIS LOOT
HERE'S THE LOOT, IMP! EVERYTHING WENT O.K. UNTIL SOME MASKED GUY CAME ALONG AND CAUGHT SPIKE! HE ALMOST GOT ME TOO!
WAS HE BIG AND STRONG-LOOKING WITH A RED CLOAK ON?
YEAH! IMP.. DAT'S RIGHT!
YOU FOOL! THAT WAS THE WITNESS! IF HE GETS ON OUR TAIL WE'LL BE IN REAL TROUBLE! WE'LL HAVE TO...ER.. PUT HIM OUT OF THE WAY!

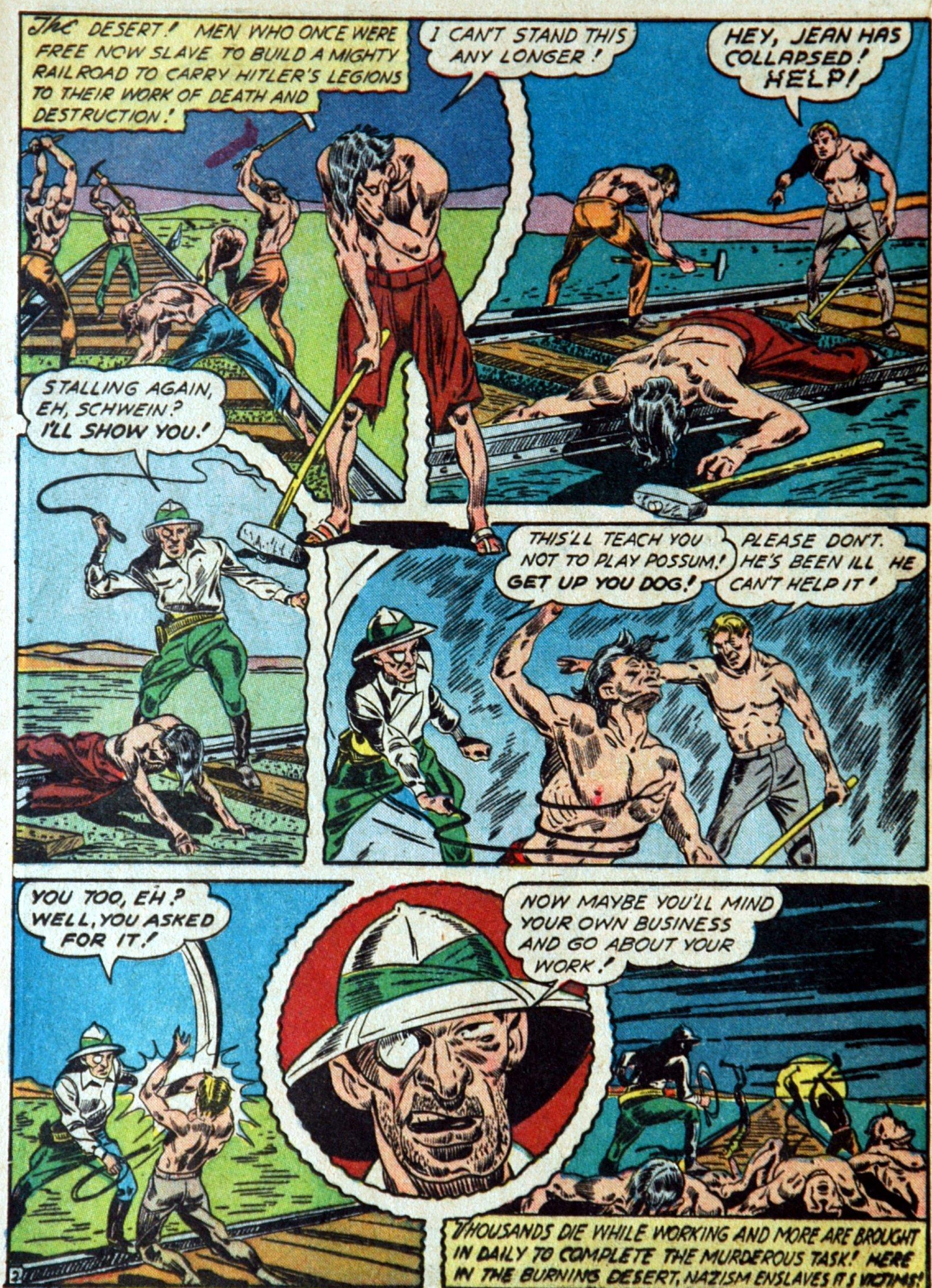

IT IS NOW THE NEXT MORNING. LET US TURN OUR ATTENTION TO THE LITTLE PAWN SHOP OWNED BY *BOOIE DAWDLY!* ... WE FIND BOOIE INDUSTRIOUSLY DUSTING HIS STORE!
AH! ANOTHER NEW DAY! I'LL DUST OFF THE COUNTER AND *MAYBE* MAKE SOME MONEY FOR A CHANGE!
HERE'S *OFFICER O'BRIAN!* I WONDER WHAT'S UP!
KNOCK KNOCK
COME IN! O'BRIAN I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU.. WHAT ARE YOU UP TO SO EARLY THIS MORNING!
HIYA, BOOIE! I JUST WONDERED IF YOU COULD HELP ME *OUT!*
SURE! I'LL BE GLAD TO... *WHAT IS IT!* !?!
WELL, CARTIFFY'S JEWELRY SHOP WAS ROBBED LAST NITE OF ABOUT $50,000 WORTH OF GEMS! I FIGGER THE CROOK WILL PROBABLY TRY TO PAWN THE GEMS FOR AWHILE AND I WANT YOU TO LET ME KNOW IF ANYBODY DOES! THEN WE'LL *CATCH 'EM!*
SURE, O'BRIAN SURE, YOU CAN COUNT ON ME!
THANKS! BOOIE! DON'T FORGET, *I'LL BE SEEIN' YA!!*
NO PARKING
BOOIE
HIGH UPON A ROOF ACROSS THE STREET *THE WITNESS* WAITS SILENTLY.... AND WATCHES WITH EYES OF A HAWK!
A POLICEMAN IS *LEAVING...* NOW IT'S MY TURN TO ENTER!
THIS IS THE QUICKEST WAY DOWN... I'M LUCKY IT'S SO EARLY... *NO ONE* WILL SEE ME!
THE MIGHTY *JUSTICE-SEEKER* SLIDES DOWN THE BUILDING DRAIN-PIPE

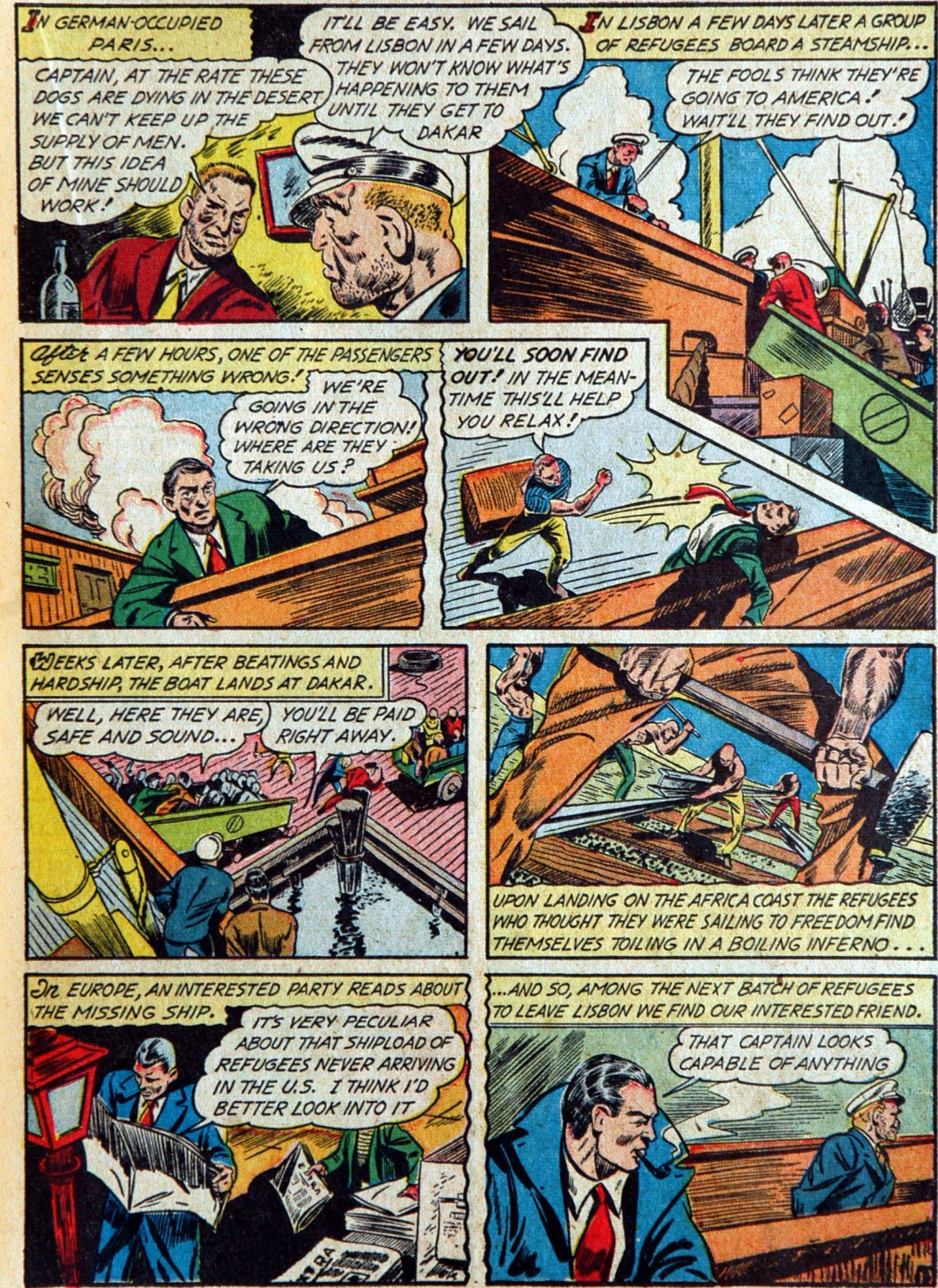

IN THE PAWN-SHOP A MOMENT LATER, THE MUSING *BOOIE* DOESN'T NOTICE THE STEALTHY FIGURE STEALING BEHIND HIM!
SO-O... OBRIAN WANTS *ME* TO TELL HIM WHEN I RECEIVE THE *STOLEN GEMS,* EH? HMMMm.
WHAT TH...?!
IT.. IT'S THE *WITNESS!* !!!
DON'T BE *AFRAID!* I WAS TOLD BY, ER.. ER A FRIEND THAT YOU COULD TELL ME WHERE TO FIND A MAN CALLED *THE IMP!* I'M SORT OF *LOOKING FOR HIM!*
SPIKE MUST HAVE SQUEALED!
WHY *YES!* I CAN... HE LIVES IN THE CELLAR UNDER THIS *STORE!*
GO RIGHT DOWN HERE! AND YOU'LL FIND HIM!
THANK YOU, I WILL!
BOOIE LIFTS A TRAP-DOOR AND THE **WITNESS** STARTS TO DESCEND!
As soon AS THE **WITNESS** ENTERS THE CELLAR... THE TRAP DOOR OVER HIS HEAD SLAMS SHUT!
SLAM
..AND NOW... TO ATTEND TO THAT **MEDDLER!!**
WHAT A *SURPRISE* **THB WITNESS** IS IN FOR WHEN HE FINDS OUT THAT *HARMLESS* LITTLE **BLOOIE** IS *REALLY* THE **IMP!**
THE PAWN-SHOP OWNER ENTERS THE CELLAR BY A *DIFFERENT ROUTE*
YES SIREE! NONE OTHER. **HA!** HA! HA. THE MIGHTY WITNESS CAUGHT BY THE *IMP!*
YOU, THE *IMP!?*
WELCOME, WITNESS! MEET THE **IMP!**
A FEW SECONDS LATER... THE **WITNESS** AND THE **IMP** STAND FACE TO FACE IN THE CELLAR...

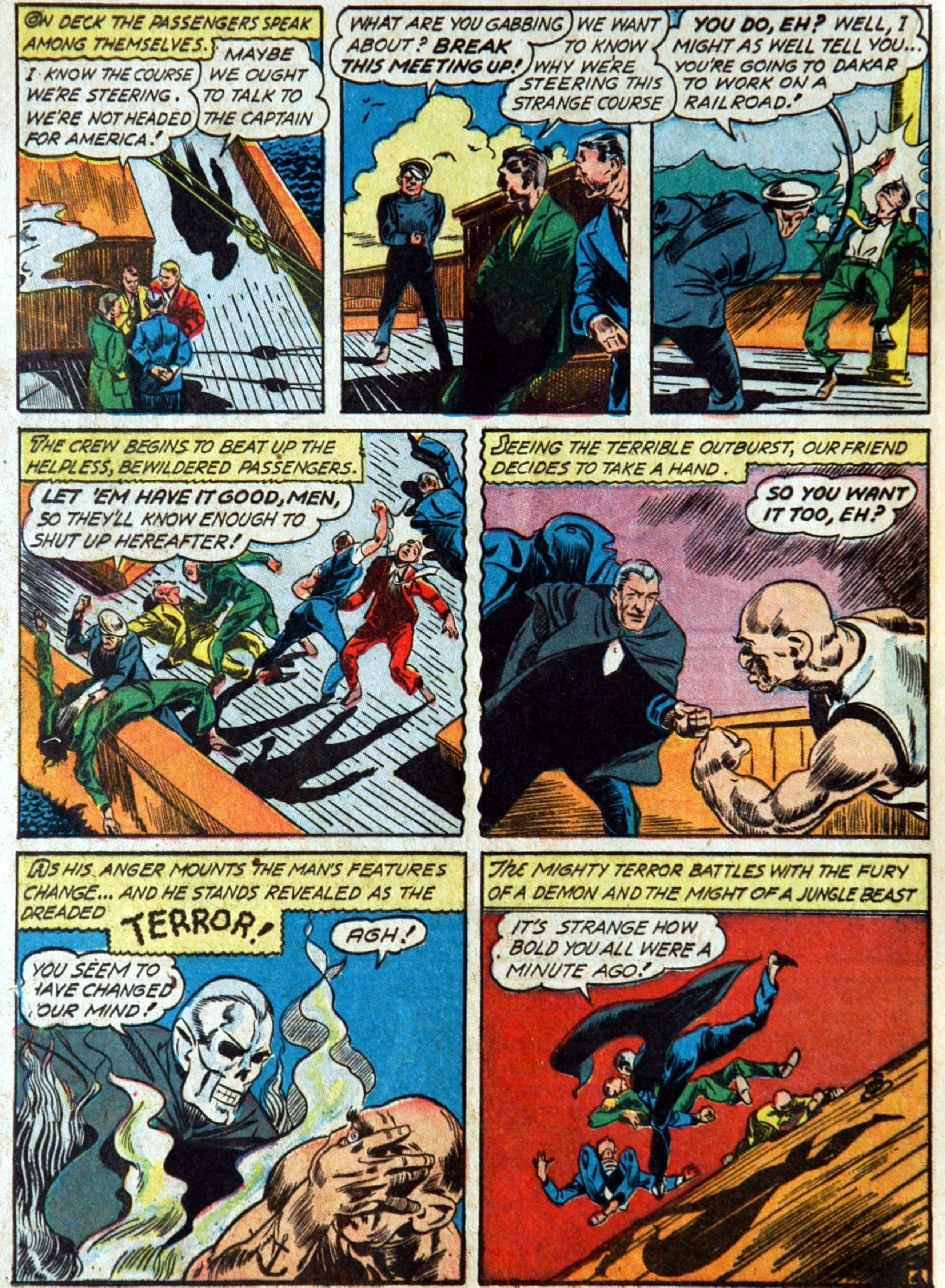

I SEE IT NOW! YOU HAD THE JEWELRY STORES ROBBED AND THEN HID THE LOOT IN YOUR STORE.. THE POLICE NEVER SUSPECTED YOU. IN FACT... THEY CONSIDERED YOU A FRIEND!
THAT'S VERY TRUE, WITNESS! BUT NOW, THAT YOU KNOW, I CAN NO LONGER ALLOW YOU TO LIVE!
FAREWELL, MEDDLER! !!
I'M SORRY.. BUT I'M NOT QUITE READY TO LEAVE YOU JUST YET!
OOOFFF..
THIS IS FOR ALL THE PEOPLE YOU'VE ROBBED !!!
Just AS THE IMP FIRES, THE WITNESS SWINGS INTO ACTION!
..AND THIS IS FOR TRYING TO VENTILATE ME WITH THAT POPGUN OF YOURS!
SOCK
THE WITNESS DELIVERS THE FINISHING BLOW...
..AND THIS.. JUST ON GENERAL PRINCIPALS AND BECAUSE I DON'T LIKE IMPS!
Later.. WHEN OFFICER O'BRIAN RETURNS, HE FINDS A STARTLING SIGHT
BEGORRA!! THE STOLEN GEMS... AND HERE'S BOOIE AND NAILS JENKS, WHO'S WANTED FOR ROBBERY IN SIX STATES.. BOOIE MUST BE THE IMP! GOSH! BUT WHO COULD OF CAUGHT 'EM. ?!!
THE MAN WHO "COULDA CAUGHT EM" IS TOO BUSY TO STAY AND TAKE BOWS ..... FOR THERE IS ALWAYS MORE WORK TO DO AND MORE CRIMES FOR THE WITNESS

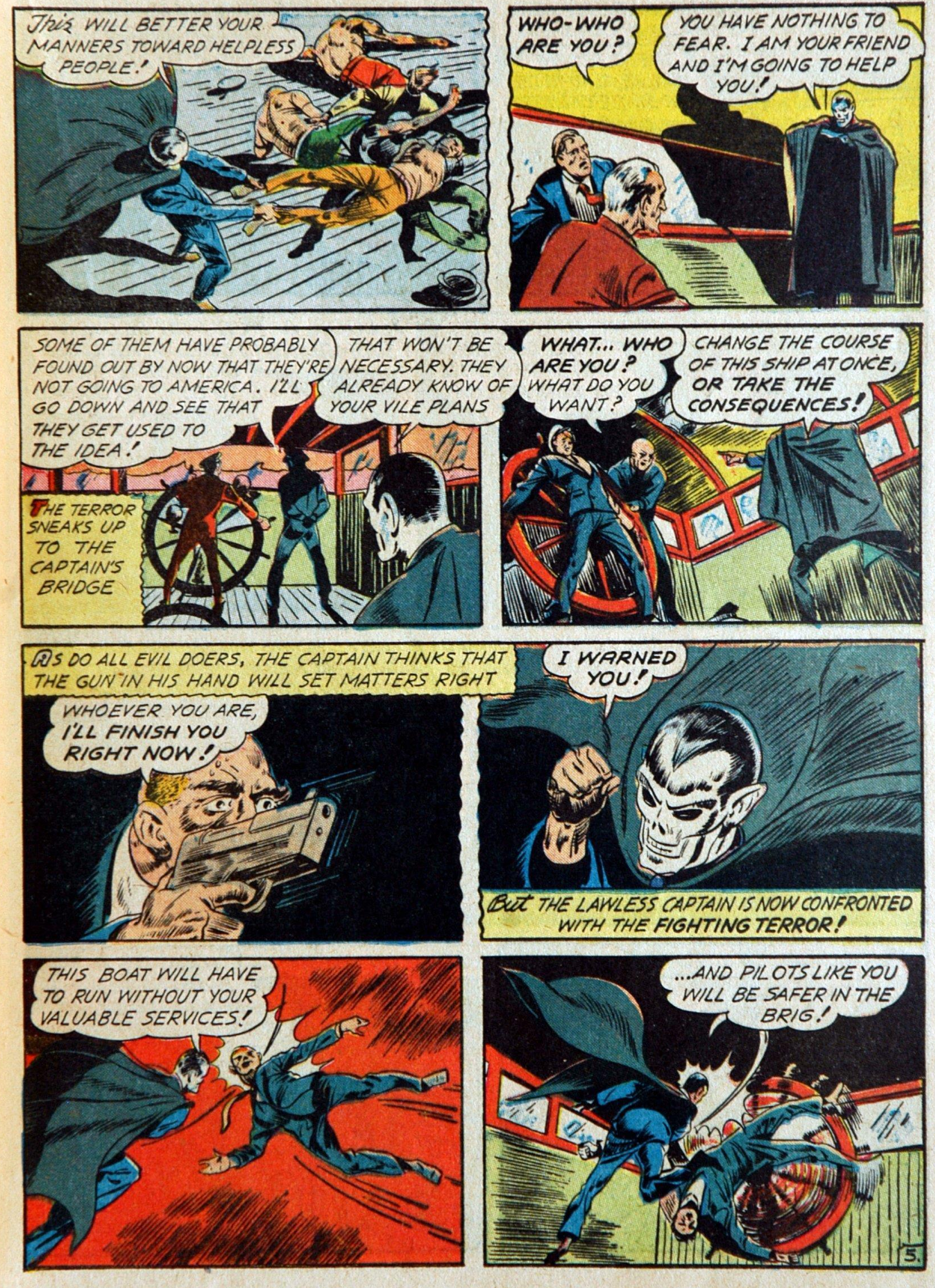
THE TERROR

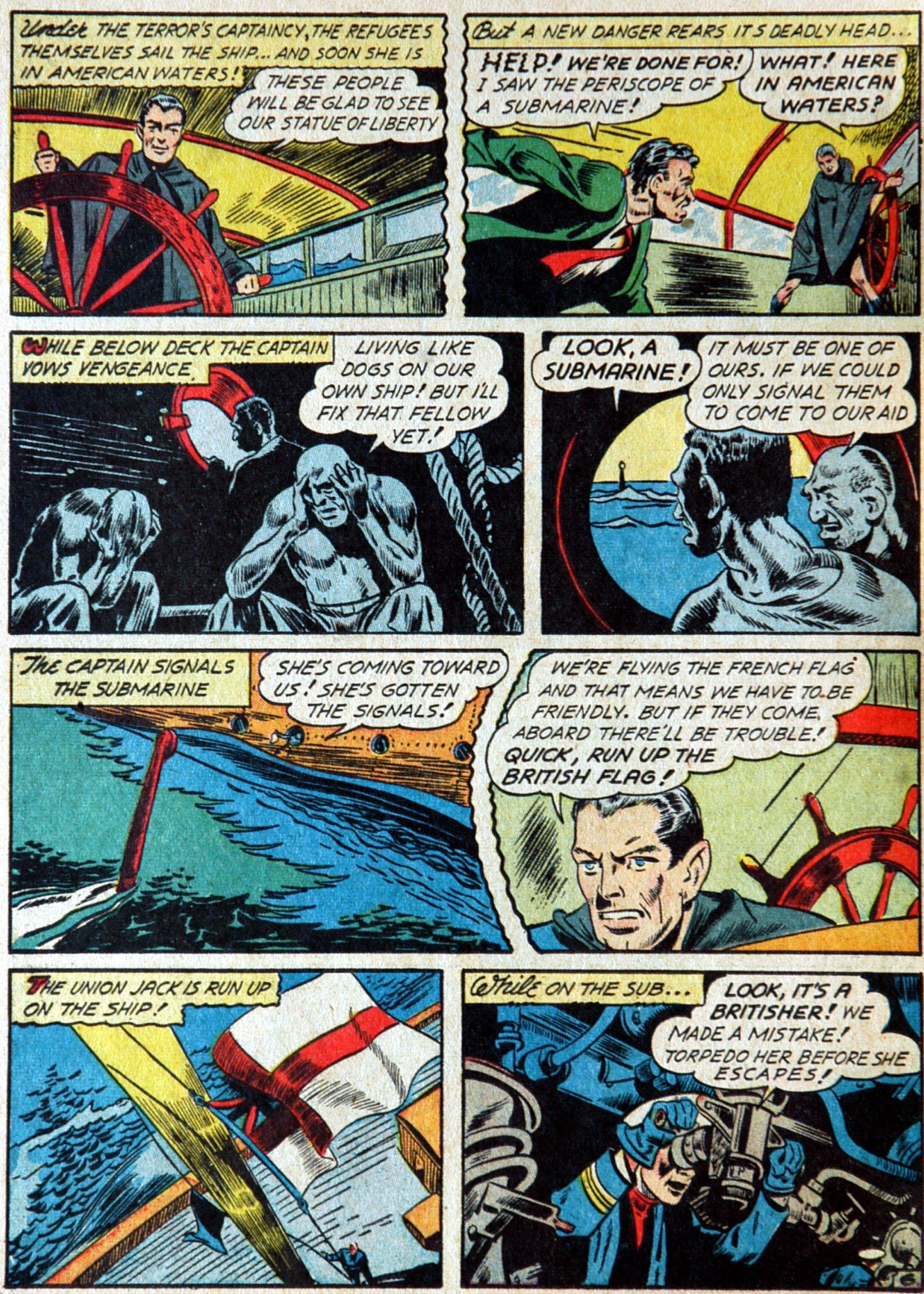

THE TERROR
AFTER SEEING THE DREADFUL DEEDS PERPETRATED BY THE FIENDISH NAZIS, ONE MAN DECIDES HE CAN NOT STAND IDLY BY ANY LONGER! ONE MAN THROWS OFF THE CLOAK OF RESPECTABILITY AND EMERGES FROM THE MISTS OF NIGHT AS THE TERROR... ARCH FOE OF ALL THAT IS EVIL AND UNJUST!
HEIL

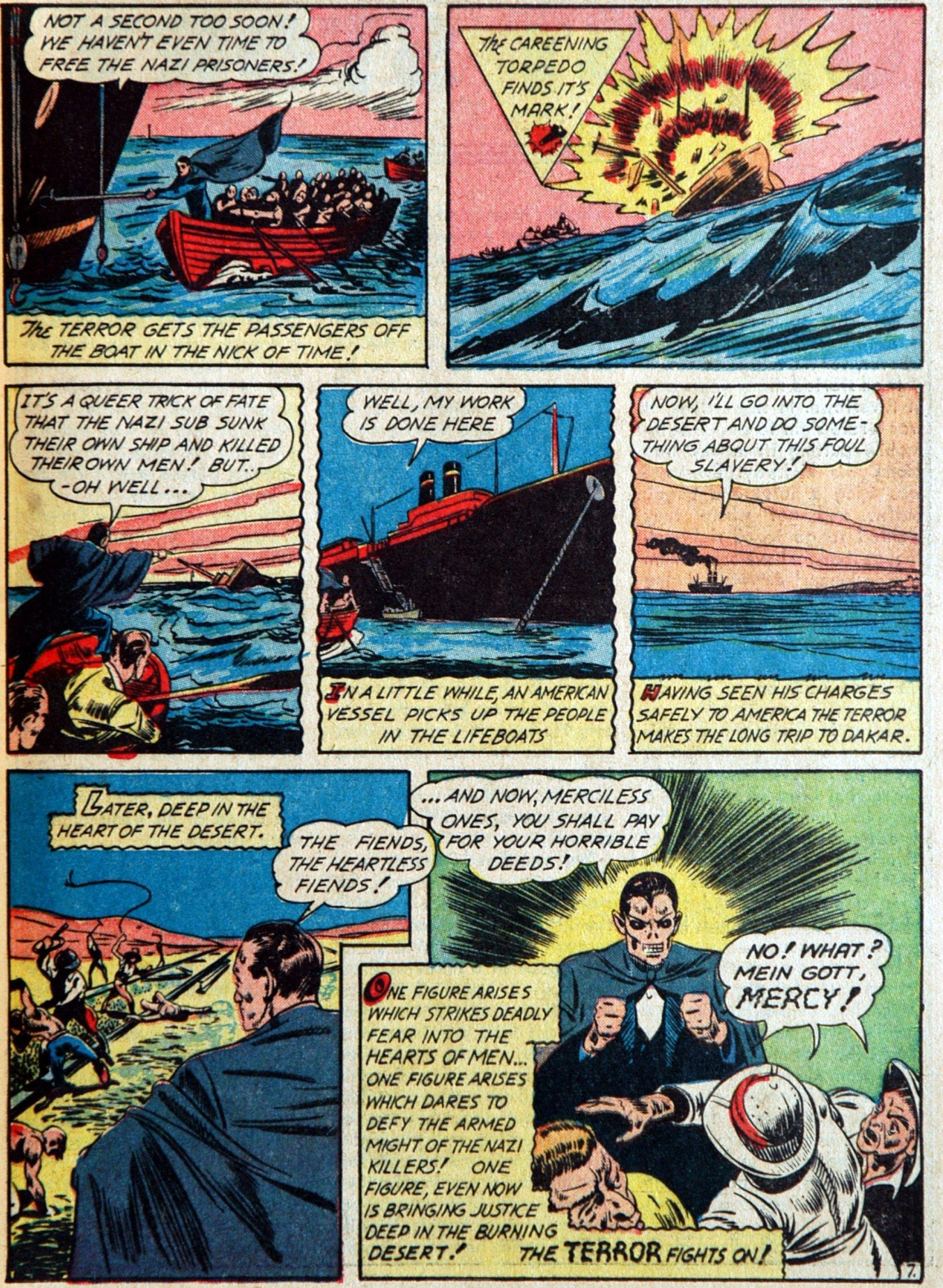

THE DESERT! MEN WHO ONCE WERE FREE NOW SLAVE TO BUILD A MIGHTY RAILROAD TO CARRY HITLER'S LEGIONS TO THEIR WORK OF DEATH AND DESTRUCTION!
I CAN'T STAND THIS ANY LONGER!
HEY, JEAN HAS COLLAPSED! HELP!
STALLING AGAIN, EH, SCHWEIN? I'LL SHOW YOU!
THIS'LL TEACH YOU NOT TO PLAY POSSUM! GET UP YOU DOG!
PLEASE DON'T. HE'S BEEN ILL HE CAN'T HELP IT!
YOU TOO, EH? WELL, YOU ASKED FOR IT!
NOW MAYBE YOU'LL MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS AND GO ABOUT YOUR WORK!
THOUSANDS DIE WHILE WORKING AND MORE ARE BROUGHT IN DAILY TO COMPLETE THE MURDEROUS TASK! HERE IN THE BURNING DESERT, NAZISM ENSLAVES IT'S VICTIMS!


IN GERMAN-OCCUPIED PARIS...
CAPTAIN, AT THE RATE THESE DOGS ARE DYING IN THE DESERT WE CAN'T KEEP UP THE SUPPLY OF MEN. BUT THIS IDEA OF MINE SHOULD WORK!
IT'LL BE EASY. WE SAIL FROM LISBON IN A FEW DAYS. THEY WON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THEM UNTIL THEY GET TO DAKAR
IN LISBON A FEW DAYS LATER A GROUP OF REFUGEES BOARD A STEAMSHIP...
THE FOOLS THINK THEY'RE GOING TO AMERICA! WAIT'LL THEY FIND OUT!
After A FEW HOURS, ONE OF THE PASSENGERS SENSES SOMETHING WRONG!
WE'RE GOING IN THE WRONG DIRECTION! WHERE ARE THEY TAKING US?
YOU'LL SOON FIND OUT! IN THE MEANTIME THIS'LL HELP YOU RELAX!
WEEKS LATER, AFTER BEATINGS AND HARDSHIP, THE BOAT LANDS AT DAKAR.
WELL, HERE THEY ARE, SAFE AND SOUND...
YOU'LL BE PAID RIGHT AWAY.
UPON LANDING ON THE AFRICA COAST THE REFUGEES WHO THOUGHT THEY WERE SAILING TO FREEDOM FIND THEMSELVES TOILING IN A BOILING INFERNO...
In EUROPE, AN INTERESTED PARTY READS ABOUT THE MISSING SHIP.
IT'S VERY PECULIAR ABOUT THAT SHIPLOAD OF REFUGEES NEVER ARRIVING IN THE U.S. I THINK I'D BETTER LOOK INTO IT
...AND SO, AMONG THE NEXT BATCH OF REFUGEES TO LEAVE LISBON WE FIND OUR INTERESTED FRIEND.
THAT CAPTAIN LOOKS CAPABLE OF ANYTHING


ON DECK THE PASSENGERS SPEAK AMONG THEMSELVES.
I KNOW THE COURSE WE'RE STEERING. WE'RE NOT HEADED FOR AMERICA!
MAYBE WE OUGHT TO TALK TO THE CAPTAIN
WHAT ARE YOU GABBING ABOUT? BREAK THIS MEETING UP!
WE WANT TO KNOW WHY WE'RE STEERING THIS STRANGE COURSE
YOU DO, EH? WELL, I MIGHT AS WELL TELL YOU... YOU'RE GOING TO DAKAR TO WORK ON A RAILROAD!
THE CREW BEGINS TO BEAT UP THE HELPLESS, BEWILDERED PASSENGERS.
LET 'EM HAVE IT GOOD, MEN, SO THEY'LL KNOW ENOUGH TO SHUT UP HEREAFTER!
SEEING THE TERRIBLE OUTBURST, OUR FRIEND DECIDES TO TAKE A HAND.
SO YOU WANT IT TOO, EH?
AS HIS ANGER MOUNTS THE MAN'S FEATURES CHANGE... AND HE STANDS REVEALED AS THE DREADED TERROR!
AGH!
YOU SEEM TO HAVE CHANGED YOUR MIND!
THE MIGHTY TERROR BATTLES WITH THE FURY OF A DEMON AND THE MIGHT OF A JUNGLE BEAST
IT'S STRANGE HOW BOLD YOU ALL WERE A MINUTE AGO!


This WILL BETTER YOUR MANNERS TOWARD HELPLESS PEOPLE!
WHO-WHO ARE YOU?
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR. I AM YOUR FRIEND AND I'M GOING TO HELP YOU!
SOME OF THEM HAVE PROBABLY FOUND OUT BY NOW THAT THEY'RE NOT GOING TO AMERICA. I'LL GO DOWN AND SEE THAT THEY GET USED TO THE IDEA!
THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY. THEY ALREADY KNOW OF YOUR VILE PLANS
THE TERROR SNEAKS UP TO THE CAPTAIN'S BRIDGE
WHAT... WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT?
CHANGE THE COURSE OF THIS SHIP AT ONCE, OR TAKE THE CONSEQUENCES!
AS DO ALL EVIL DOERS, THE CAPTAIN THINKS THAT THE GUN IN HIS HAND WILL SET MATTERS RIGHT
WHOEVER YOU ARE, I'LL FINISH YOU RIGHT NOW!
I WARNED YOU!
But THE LAWLESS CAPTAIN IS NOW CONFRONTED WITH THE FIGHTING TERROR!
THIS BOAT WILL HAVE TO RUN WITHOUT YOUR VALUABLE SERVICES!
...AND PILOTS LIKE YOU WILL BE SAFER IN THE BRIG!
5


Under THE TERROR'S CAPTAINCY, THE REFUGEES THEMSELVES SAIL THE SHIP... AND SOON SHE IS IN AMERICAN WATERS!
THESE PEOPLE WILL BE GLAD TO SEE OUR STATUE OF LIBERTY
But A NEW DANGER REARS ITS DEADLY HEAD...
HELP! WE'RE DONE FOR! I SAW THE PERISCOPE OF A SUBMARINE!
WHAT! HERE IN AMERICAN WATERS?
WHILE BELOW DECK THE CAPTAIN VOWS VENGEANCE.
LIVING LIKE DOGS ON OUR OWN SHIP! BUT I'LL FIX THAT FELLOW YET!
LOOK, A SUBMARINE!
IT MUST BE ONE OF OURS. IF WE COULD ONLY SIGNAL THEM TO COME TO OUR AID
The CAPTAIN SIGNALS THE SUBMARINE
SHE'S COMING TOWARD US! SHE'S GOTTEN THE SIGNALS!
WE'RE FLYING THE FRENCH FLAG AND THAT MEANS WE HAVE TO BE FRIENDLY. BUT IF THEY COME ABOARD THERE'LL BE TROUBLE! QUICK, RUN UP THE BRITISH FLAG!
THE UNION JACK IS RUN UP ON THE SHIP!
While ON THE SUB...
LOOK, IT'S A BRITISHER! WE MADE A MISTAKE! TORPEDO HER BEFORE SHE ESCAPES!


NOT A SECOND TOO SOON! WE HAVEN'T EVEN TIME TO FREE THE NAZI PRISONERS!
The TERROR GETS THE PASSENGERS OFF THE BOAT IN THE NICK OF TIME!
The CAREENING TORPEDO FINDS IT'S MARK!
IT'S A QUEER TRICK OF FATE THAT THE NAZI SUB SUNK THEIR OWN SHIP AND KILLED THEIR OWN MEN! BUT.. -OH WELL...
WELL, MY WORK IS DONE HERE
IN A LITTLE WHILE, AN AMERICAN VESSEL PICKS UP THE PEOPLE IN THE LIFEBOATS
NOW, I'LL GO INTO THE DESERT AND DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS FOUL SLAVERY!
HAVING SEEN HIS CHARGES SAFELY TO AMERICA THE TERROR MAKES THE LONG TRIP TO DAKAR.
LATER, DEEP IN THE HEART OF THE DESERT.
THE FIENDS, THE HEARTLESS FIENDS!
...AND NOW, MERCILESS ONES, YOU SHALL PAY FOR YOUR HORRIBLE DEEDS!
NO! WHAT? MEIN GOTT, MERCY!
ONE FIGURE ARISES WHICH STRIKES DEADLY FEAR INTO THE HEARTS OF MEN... ONE FIGURE ARISES WHICH DARES TO DEFY THE ARMED MIGHT OF THE NAZI KILLERS! ONE FIGURE, EVEN NOW IS BRINGING JUSTICE DEEP IN THE BURNING DESERT!
THE TERROR FIGHTS ON!

GHOST STORY

The story I am about to relate may sound utterly fantastic and unreal, but yet my friend Dr. Robert Fields swears that it happened to him. If you can't believe my tale, you will just have to take it up with the good Doctor, for he told it to me.

It all started many years ago in Rivertown. In those days, it was a rare sight to see an automobile puffing its smoky way along the highway. Everyone was using a horse and buggy outfit, and got where they wanted to go to all right, although it might have taken them a little longer! Anyway, during this era in our fast-changing world, my friend Doctor Fields was a young fellow of sixteen when the amazing story I am about to pass on to you occurred.

Living in Rivertown at this time was an old gentleman of eccentric character, a Mr. Drake. He lived all alone in a large house in the center of the woods surrounding the town of Rivertown. Many years before, this house in the woods had been a public Inn, and there had been good dirt roads leading to the place.

But, one day, without any formal notice of any kind, Mr. Drake had closed his Inn, and now he dwelt in the huge house alone! He was more or less isolated from his fellow townsmen, for no one traveled over the dirt roads anymore. In fact, they had become covered with bushes and brambles during the passing years, and now no one could say where the old roads had been.

So, old Mr. Drake lived alone in his big house, and often many months went by before he was seen in town for a brief hour to buy up stores of canned foods. After his quick visit to the food store, he would make his solitary way back to the old house in the woods, and not be seen again for long periods of time. People wondered about the old man, and how he could stand to live all alone in the woods!

And this is where my friend Fields, then a young fellow, comes in. He had always been fond of taking walks in the woods to get away from the noise of the town for an hour's peace and quiet.

One evening, Fields was taking one of his usual walks after supper in the woods. The sun was just sinking below the horizon. He knew it would be dark soon, but he had made this trek so many times already, that he could have found his way home again with his eyes closed!

He wandered—deeper and deeper into the woods; he stopped a few times to watch the little tadpoles scampering through the water of a pond, or to gaze at a harmless grass snake as it squirmed its way through the underbrush. These wonderful little creatures were his friends, and he never tired of returning again and again to watch them in silence as they went about their business of working, eating, and playing.

Fields continued to walk farther into the darkening shadows of the woods. He was so engrossed in his thoughts, that he did not notice he had wandered much further into the forest than he had intended!

A sudden clap of thunder brought him out of his reverie! An electric storm was about to break! With the suddenness of a tropical storm, the rain began to beat down in violent fury. Fields dashed under a spreading oak to escape the raindrops, but he was already quite wet. A jagged streak of lightning played across the sky in brilliant warning.

"It isn't safe to stand under a tree in a lightning storm!" Fields muttered to himself.

Then, as he looked around more carefully, he was surprised to find himself very near to the old house where Mr. Drake lived!

"Any port in a storm!" Fields thought, as he made a quick dash for the house. He stood on the porch and rapped heavily on the thick door. But the clamor of the thunder reduced the sound of his banging to a mere whisper.

Fields tried the door, and found it to be unlocked! He opened it slowly, cautiously, and entered the large main hallway of the place. A strange feeling came over him, as though he had entered a place where some unseen terror and mystery lurked! The dust was thick, and cobwebs covered the few chairs and a table which remained in the hallway. Fields looked around the ground floor for old man Drake, but there was no sign of him!

Suddenly, he heard footsteps coming slowly down the staircase from the second floor! It sounded like several persons were approaching. Fields hid behind a closet door, and waited. His heart was beating so fast, that he was sure whoever was near could hear the Thump . . . Thump of his heartbeat! The footsteps seemed to approach the center of the room and then stop abruptly. Fields could hear the sound of scraping chairs as they were pushed back from the table. The person, or persons who had entered that room were now sitting down!

Fields managed to sneak a glance out from behind the closet door, and the sight which greeted his eyes horrified him! There, at the table, sat four tall, gaunt, pale figures wearing shabby clothes! A strange mist seemed to surround them and hover above them, giving them the appearance of ghostly forms from the other world!

Then, suddenly, one of the strange figures smashed his fist down on the table, and bellowed in a voice which re-echoed throughout the old house:

"Bring in the wine! Bring in the wine!"

At this command, old man Drake himself appeared from the next room, carrying a tray on which rested a bottle of wine, and four drinking glasses! He set the wine before the grim, expressionless figures. Again, one of the men spoke:

"The poison . . . Don't forget the poison!"

The old man quaked in terror, and cried:

"Not again! You've punished me long enough! Why don't you stop torturing me!"

But the leader of the four spectral figures replied:

"Seven years ago, we four came to this house seeking shelter from a storm! You let us come in, and fed us. But then you abused the virtue of hospitality . . . you gave us wine, poisoned wine! You must repeat your evil deed on every night of a storm, until your soul is given up to your Maker! Only your own death will free you from this burden of punishment!"

Old man Drake quivered from head to foot! It was evident that the long strain which his nerves had undergone was beginning to effect his reason! He began to cackle like a crazy man, as he removed a small bottle of poison from his pocket.

"You want the poison, eh! Then you shall have it! Ha, ha, ha!!" His eerie laugh ended in a shriek of gaiety! One by one, he poured a few drops of poison into the glasses. The gaunt figures lifted the glasses to their lips, and drank!

A nerve-shaking scream of agony re-echoed through the empty halls of the house! The four men clutched at their throats, and fell to the floor! An instant later, they vanished from sight!

Poor Fields was so terrified, he could hardly move. He was certain he had seen the ghostly remains of four dead men! His eyes were now riveted on the wrinkled face of old man Drake, who sat at the table with his head resting between the palms of his two hands. Fields could hear the feeble voice of the old man as he muttered to himself:

"Let them punish me! They think I'll lose my mind and kill myself! But I won't . . . I won't! I'll fool them. I'll live on and on . . . and I'll go on poisoning them! Ha, ha! Poison them again and again!"

The weary old man left the room and walked slowly upstairs to the second floor. The storm passed over by now, and Fields had no desire to hang around that house of Death. He scampered swiftly out the front door, and never stopped running until he got home! He was too unnerved to tell anyone what he had seen.

A few years after that eventful night, Mr. Drake was killed in town by a runaway horse during one of his periodic visits to buy food supplies. Since that time, no one has entered the old house in the woods, and it has fallen into a state of decay.

But my good friend, Dr. Fields, assures me that whenever a storm comes up in Rivertown, he always recalls what happened to him that dreadful night many years ago. Of course, I don't believe in ghosts; but Fields insists he saw them! I'm just telling you what he told me. You can draw your own conclusions!

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACTS OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AND MARCH 3, 1933

of Marvel Mystery Comics, published monthly at Meriden, Conn., for October 1, 1941.

State of New York } ss.
County of New York }

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared Abraham Goodman, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the Business Manager of the Marvel Mystery Comics and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 411, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to wit

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business manager are. Publisher, Timely Comics, Inc., 330 W. 42nd St. N. Y. C., Managing Editor, Martin Goodman, 330 W. 42nd St., N. Y. C., Business Manager, Abraham Goodman, 330 W. 42nd St., N. Y. C

2. That the owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding one per cent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a firm, company, or other unincorporated concern, its name and address, as well as those of each individual member, must be given.)

Timely Comics, Inc., 330 W. 42nd St., N. Y. C.; Martin Goodman, 330 W. 42nd St., N. Y. C.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are. (If there are none, so state.) None.

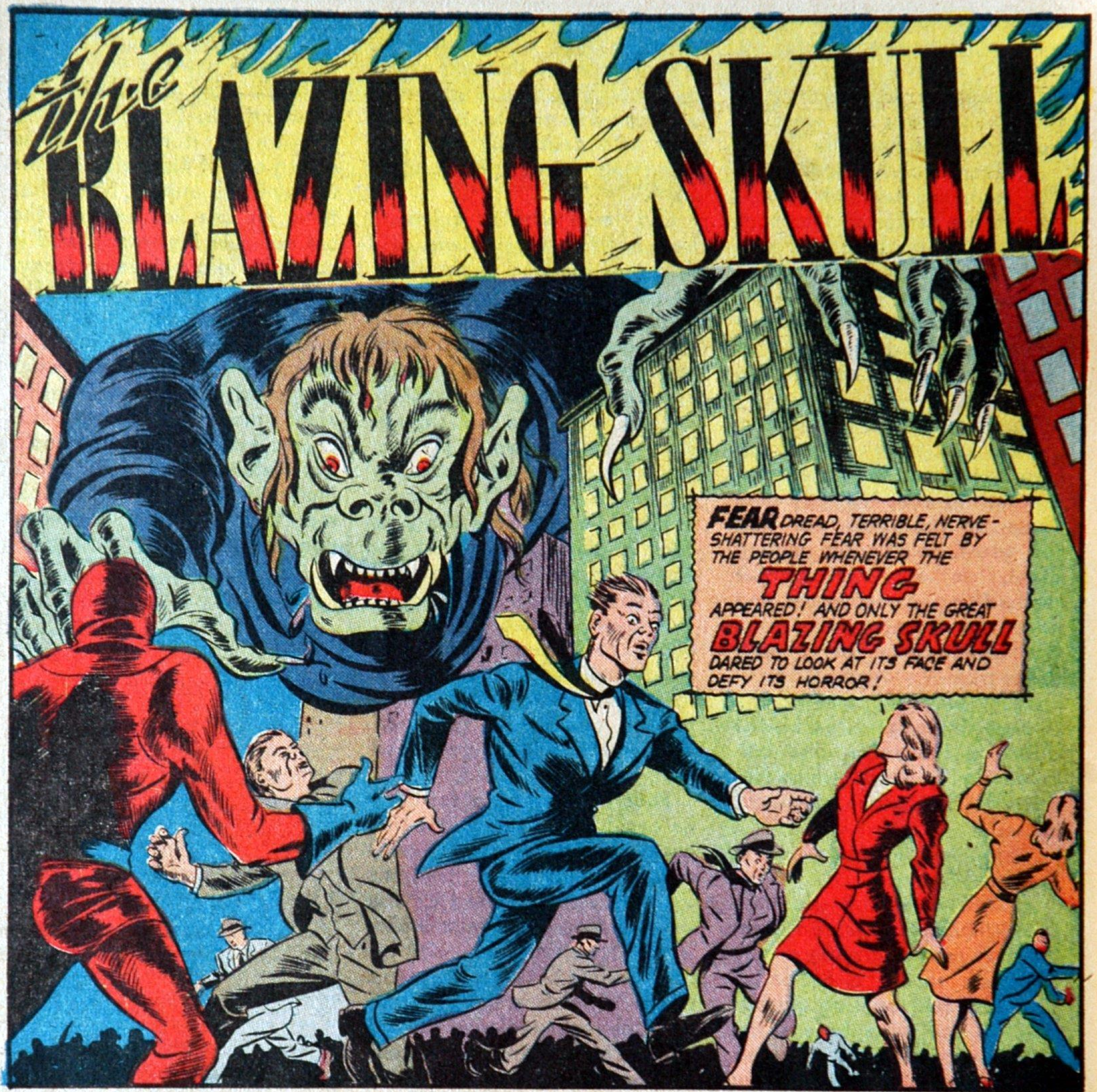
4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company but also, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, is given, also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds, or other securities than as so stated by him.

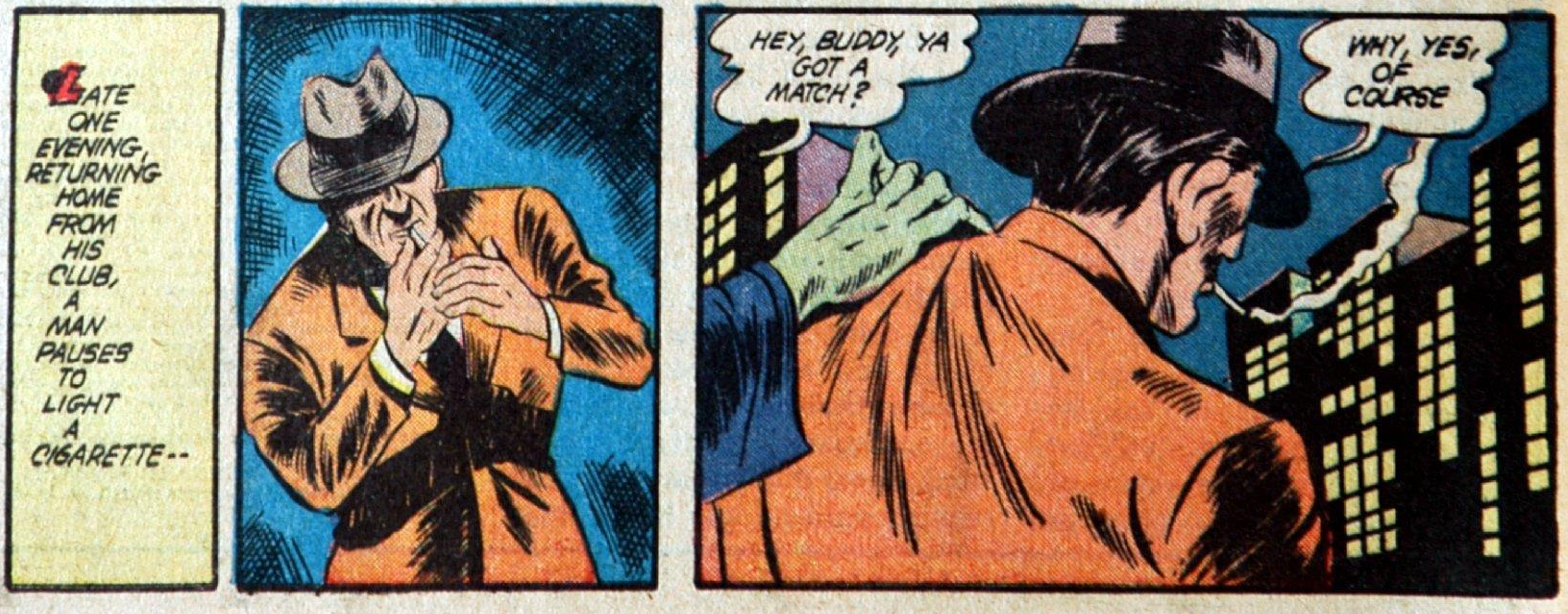
(Signed) ABRAHAM GOODMAN.

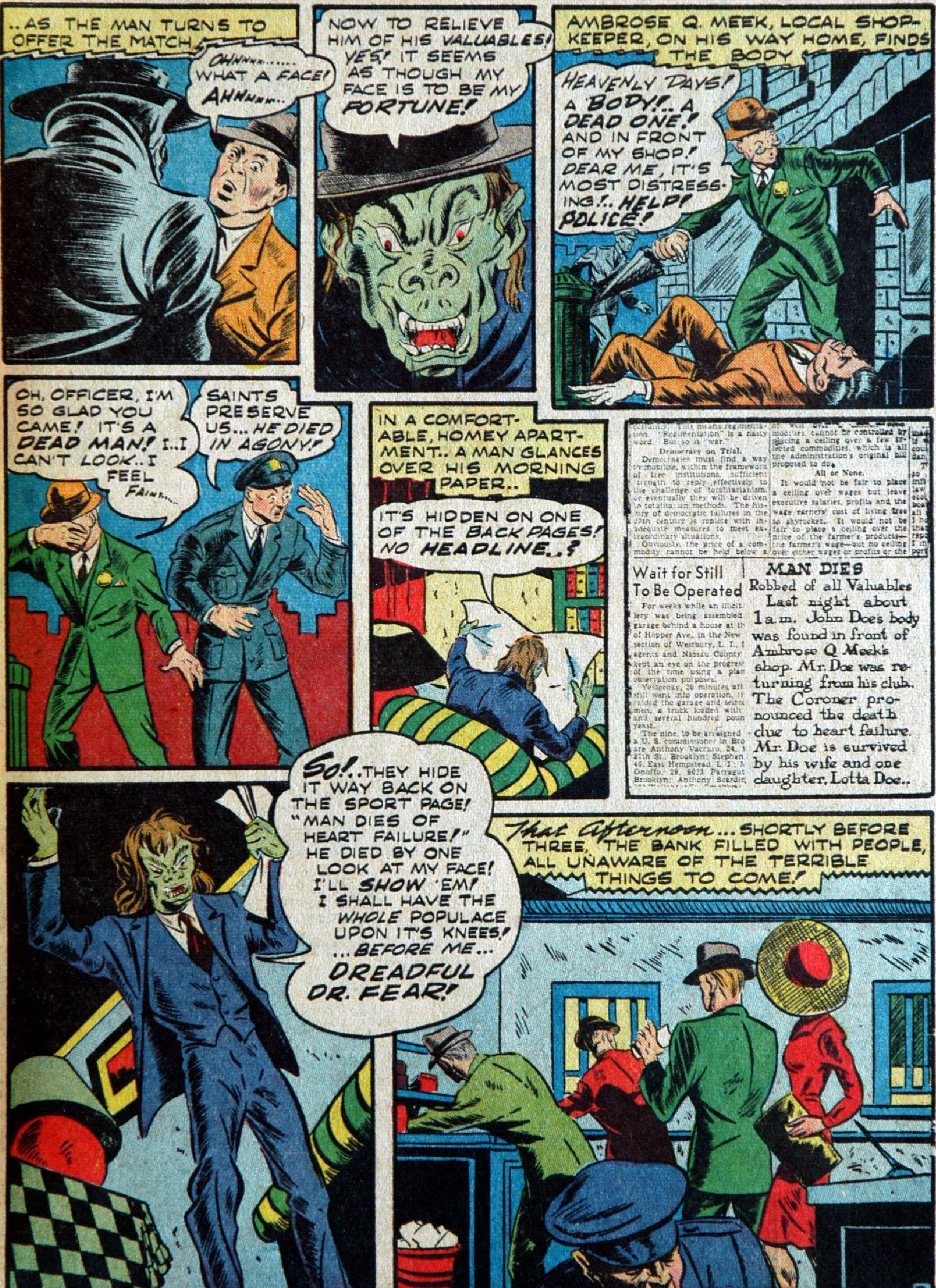
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 30th day of September, 1941

(SEAL) BERNARD ARBITAL.
(My Commision expires March 30, 1943.)

THE BLAZING SKULL


the BLAZING SKULL
FEAR DREAD, TERRIBLE, NERVE-SHATTERING FEAR WAS FELT BY THE PEOPLE WHENEVER THE THING APPEARED! AND ONLY THE GREAT BLAZING SKULL DARED TO LOOK AT ITS FACE AND DEFY ITS HORROR!


LATE ONE EVENING, RETURNING HOME FROM HIS CLUB, A MAN PAUSES TO LIGHT A CIGARETTE--
HEY, BUDDY, YA GOT A MATCH?
WHY, YES, OF COURSE


..AS THE MAN TURNS TO OFFER THE MATCH..
OHHhhh........ WHAT A FACE! AHHhhhh...
NOW TO RELIEVE HIM OF HIS VALUABLES! YES! IT SEEMS AS THOUGH MY FACE IS TO BE MY FORTUNE!
AMBROSE Q. MEEK, LOCAL SHOP-KEEPER, ON HIS WAY HOME, FINDS THE BODY..
HEAVENLY DAYS! A BODY!.. A DEAD ONE! AND IN FRONT OF MY SHOP! DEAR ME, IT'S MOST DISTRESSING!.. HELP! POLICE!
OH, OFFICER, I'M SO GLAD YOU CAME! IT'S A DEAD MAN! I..I CAN'T LOOK..I FEEL FAIN.....
SAINTS PRESERVE US... HE DIED IN AGONY!
IN A COMFORTABLE, HOMEY APARTMENT.. A MAN GLANCES OVER HIS MORNING PAPER..
IT'S HIDDEN ON ONE OF THE BACK PAGES! NO HEADLINE..?
SO!..THEY HIDE IT WAY BACK ON THE SPORT PAGE! "MAN DIES OF HEART FAILURE!" HE DIED BY ONE LOOK AT MY FACE! I'LL SHOW 'EM! I SHALL HAVE THE WHOLE POPULACE UPON IT'S KNEES! ...BEFORE ME... DREADFUL DR. FEAR!
That Afternoon... SHORTLY BEFORE THREE, THE BANK FILLED WITH PEOPLE, ALL UNAWARE OF THE TERRIBLE THINGS TO COME!

certainly. This means regimentation. "Regimentation" is a nasty word. But so is "war."

Democracy on Trial.

Democracies must find a way to mobilize, within the framework of free institutions, sufficient strength to reply effectively to the challenge of totalitarianism, or eventually they will be driven to totalitarian methods. The history of democratic failures in the 20th century is replete with inadequate measures to meet extraordinary situations.

Obviously, the price of a commodity cannot be held below a

modities, cannot be controlled by placing a ceiling over a few selected commodities, which is all the administration's original bill proposed to do.

All or None.

It would not be fair to place a ceiling over wages but leave executive salaries, profits and the wage earners' cost of living free to skyrocket. It would not be fair to place a ceiling over the price of the farmer's products—the farmer's wage—but no ceiling over either wages or profits or the

Wait for Still To Be Operated

For weeks while an illicit
lery was being assembled
garage behind a house at th
of Hopper Ave., in the New
section of Westbury, L. I., f
agents and Nassau County
kept an eye on the progres
of the time using a plan
observation purposes.

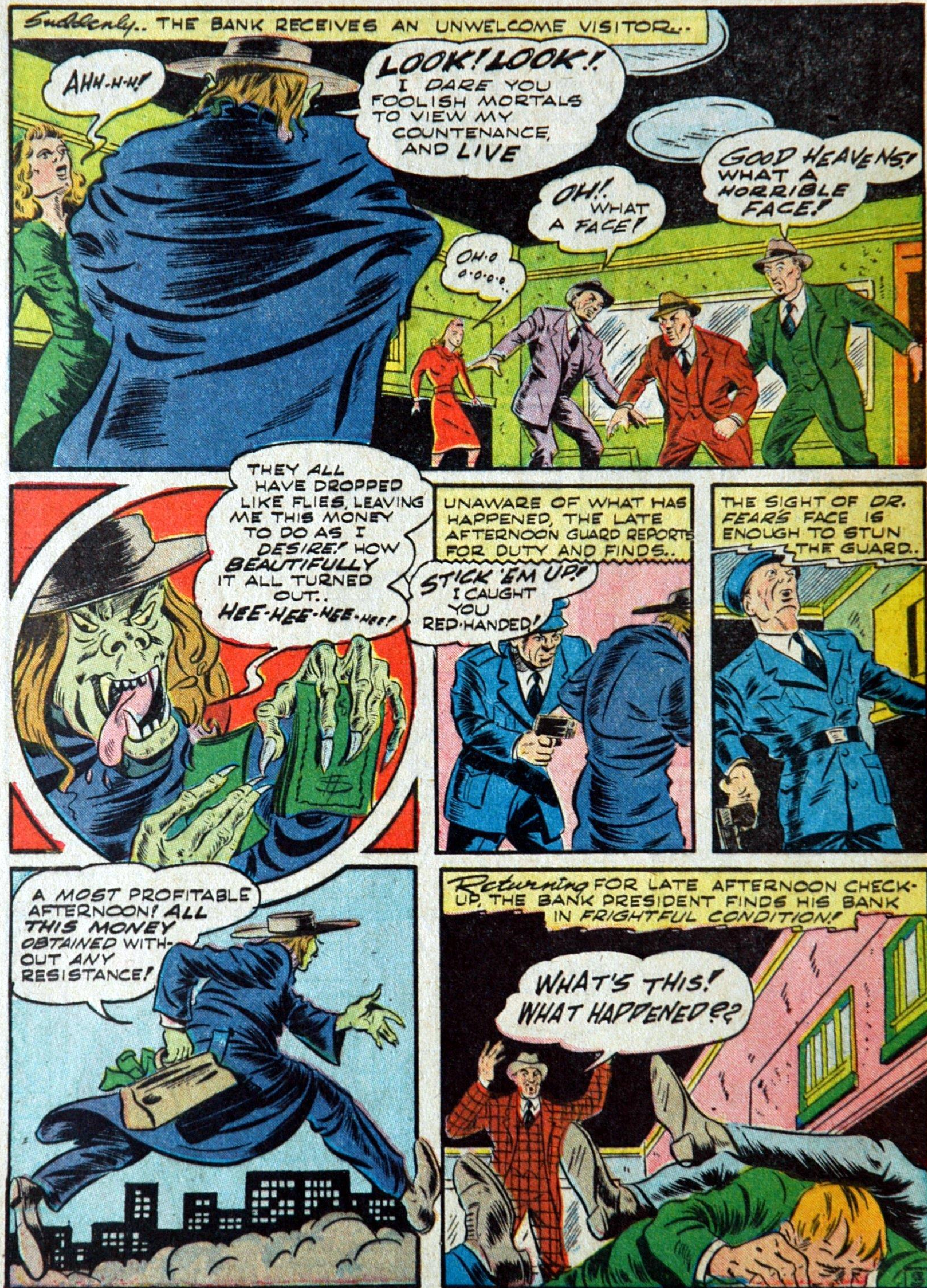
Yesterday, 20 minutes aft
still went into operation, th
raided the garage and seize
ment, a truck loaded with
and several hundred poun
yeast.

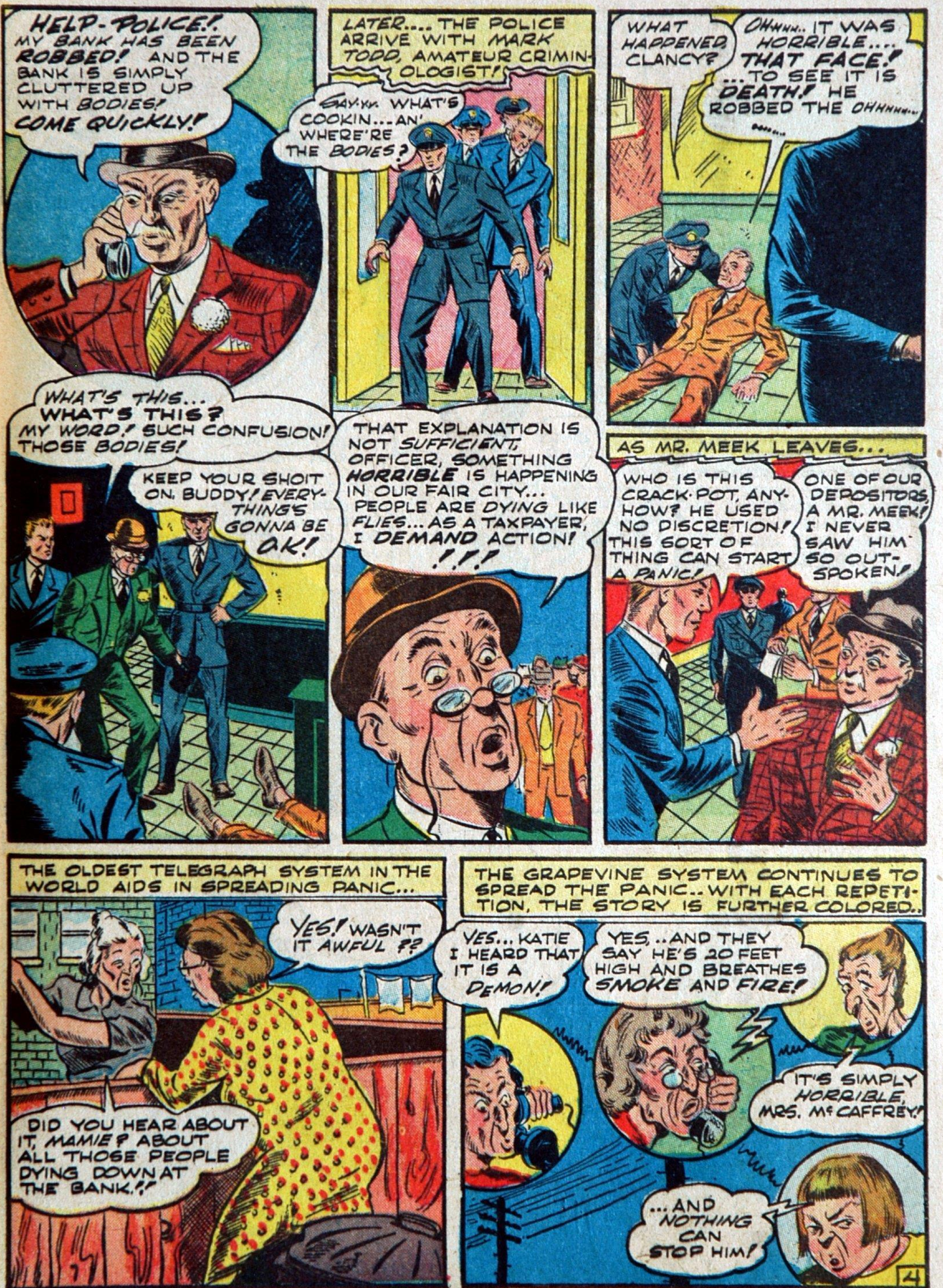
The nine, to be arraigned
a U. S. commissioner in Bro
are Anthony Vaccaro, 24,
87th St., Brooklyn; Stephen
46, East Hempstead, L. I.; M
Gnoffo, 29, 9623 Farragut
Brooklyn; Anthony Scardin

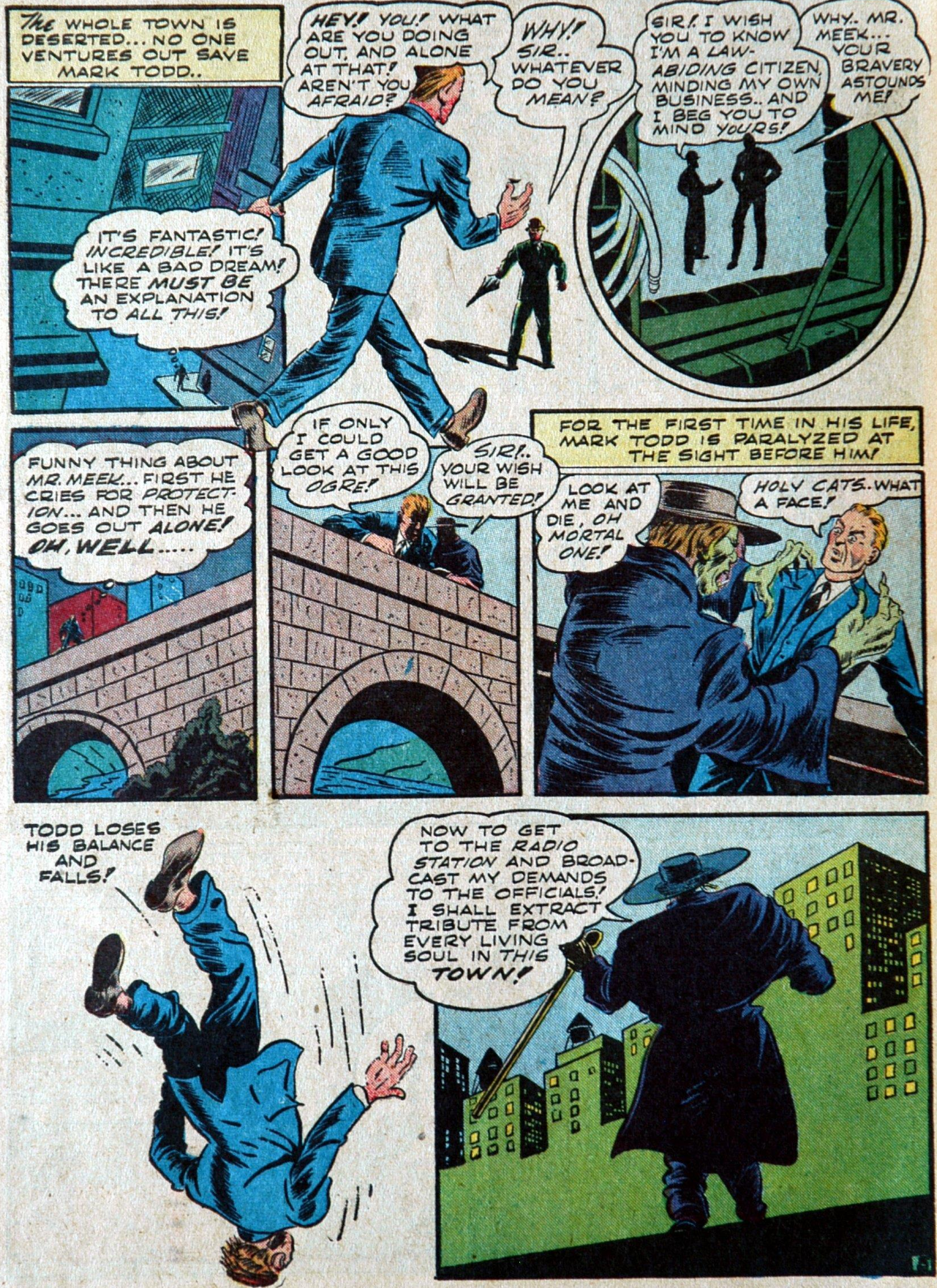
MAN DIES

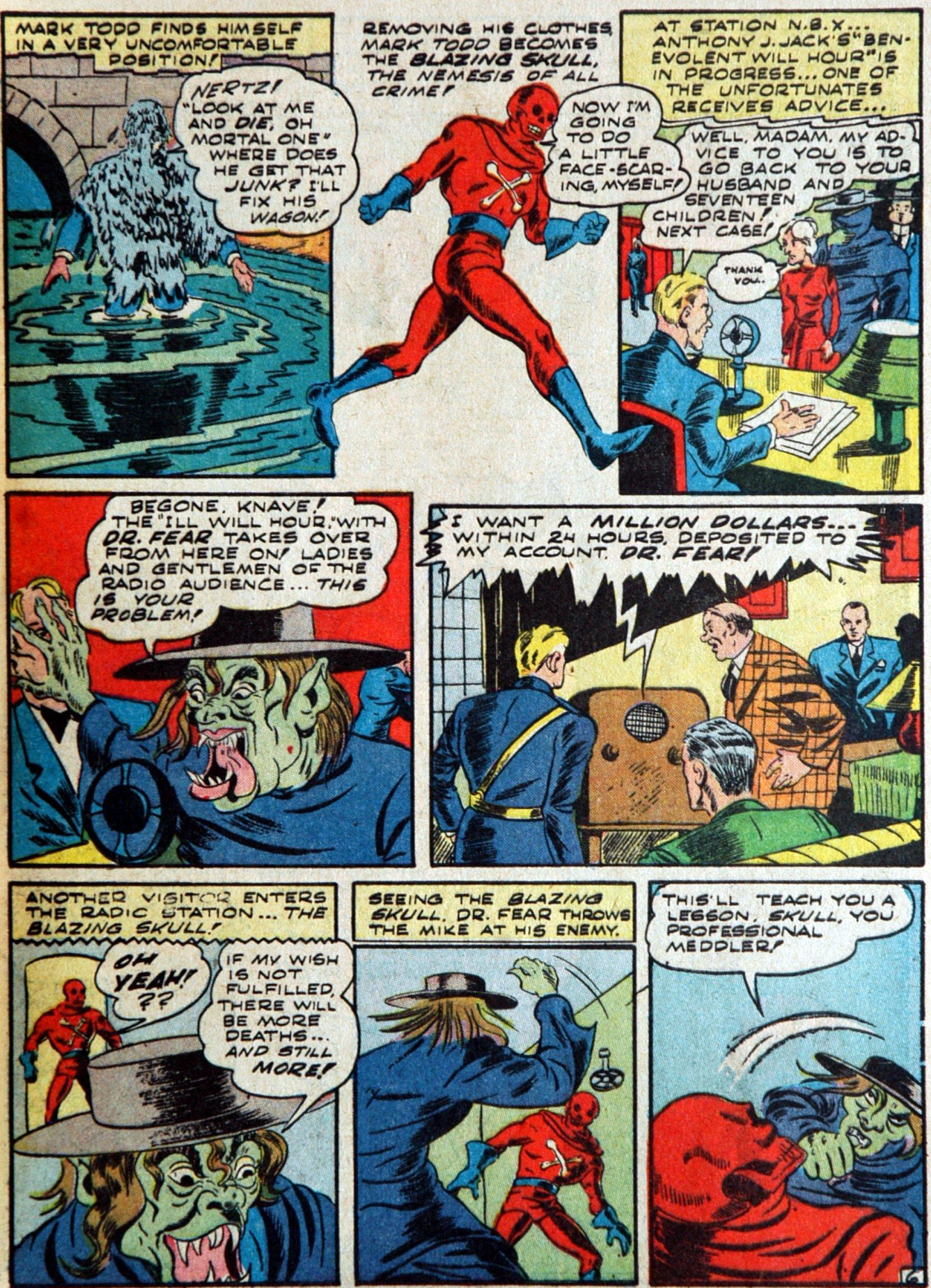
Robbed of all Valuables

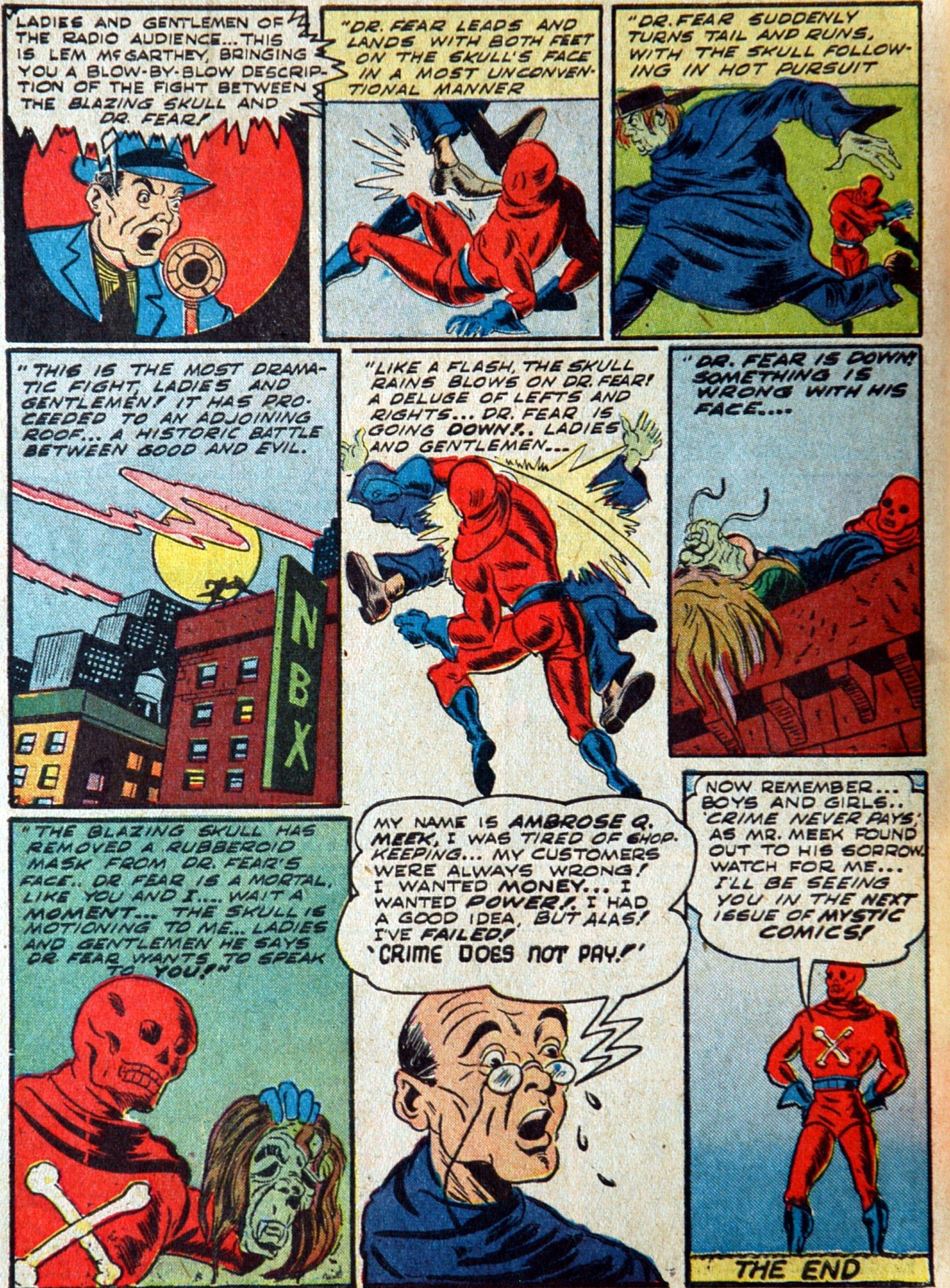
Last night about 1 a.m. John Doe's body was found in front of Ambrose Q Meek's shop. Mr. Doe was returning from his club. The Coroner pronounced the death due to heart failure. Mr. Doe is survived by his wife and one daughter, Lotta Doe..


Suddenly.. THE BANK RECEIVES AN UNWELCOME VISITOR..
AHH-H-H!
LOOK! LOOK!. I DARE YOU FOOLISH MORTALS TO VIEW MY COUNTENANCE, AND LIVE
GOOD HEAVENS! WHAT A HORRIBLE FACE!
OH!. WHAT A FACE!
OH-O O-O-O-O..
THEY ALL HAVE DROPPED LIKE FLIES, LEAVING ME THIS MONEY TO DO AS I DESIRE! HOW BEAUTIFULLY IT ALL TURNED OUT.. HEE-HEE-HEE-HEE!
UNAWARE OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED, THE LATE AFTERNOON GUARD REPORTS FOR DUTY AND FINDS..
STICK 'EM UP! I CAUGHT YOU RED-HANDED!
THE SIGHT OF DR. FEAR'S FACE IS ENOUGH TO STUN THE GUARD..
A MOST PROFITABLE AFTERNOON! ALL THIS MONEY OBTAINED WITHOUT ANY RESISTANCE!
Returning FOR LATE AFTERNOON CHECK-UP, THE BANK PRESIDENT FINDS HIS BANK IN FRIGHTFUL CONDITION!
WHAT'S THIS! WHAT HAPPENED??
3


HELP-POLICE!! MY BANK HAS BEEN ROBBED! AND THE BANK IS SIMPLY CLUTTERED UP WITH BODIES! COME QUICKLY!
LATER.... THE POLICE ARRIVE WITH MARK TODD, AMATEUR CRIMINOLOGIST!
SAY-YY. WHAT'S COOKIN... AN' WHERE'RE THE BODIES?
WHAT HAPPENED, CLANCY?
OHHHH.. IT WAS HORRIBLE.... THAT FACE! ...TO SEE IT IS DEATH! HE ROBBED THE OHHHH... .....
WHAT'S THIS... WHAT'S THIS? MY WORD! SUCH CONFUSION! THOSE BODIES!
KEEP YOUR SHOIT ON, BUDDY! EVERYTHING'S GONNA BE O.K!
THAT EXPLANATION IS NOT SUFFICIENT, OFFICER, SOMETHING HORRIBLE IS HAPPENING IN OUR FAIR CITY... PEOPLE ARE DYING LIKE FLIES... AS A TAXPAYER, I DEMAND ACTION! !!!
AS MR. MEEK LEAVES...
WHO IS THIS CRACK-POT, ANYHOW? HE USED NO DISCRETION! THIS SORT OF THING CAN START A PANIC!
ONE OF OUR DEPOSITORS, A MR. MEEK! I NEVER SAW HIM SO OUTSPOKEN!
THE OLDEST TELEGRAPH SYSTEM IN THE WORLD AIDS IN SPREADING PANIC...
YES! WASN'T IT AWFUL ??
DID YOU HEAR ABOUT IT, MAMIE? ABOUT ALL THOSE PEOPLE DYING DOWN AT THE BANK!!
THE GRAPEVINE SYSTEM CONTINUES TO SPREAD THE PANIC.. WITH EACH REPETITION, THE STORY IS FURTHER COLORED..
YES... KATIE I HEARD THAT IT IS A DEMON!
YES, ..AND THEY SAY HE'S 20 FEET HIGH AND BREATHES SMOKE AND FIRE!
IT'S SIMPLY HORRIBLE, MRS. McCAFFREY!
...AND NOTHING CAN STOP HIM!


The WHOLE TOWN IS DESERTED... NO ONE VENTURES OUT SAVE MARK TODD..
HEY! YOU! WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT, AND ALONE AT THAT! AREN'T YOU AFRAID?
WHY! SIR.. WHATEVER DO YOU MEAN?
SIR! I WISH YOU TO KNOW I'M A LAW-ABIDING CITIZEN, MINDING MY OWN BUSINESS.. AND I BEG YOU TO MIND YOURS!
WHY.. MR. MEEK... YOUR BRAVERY ASTOUNDS ME!
IT'S FANTASTIC! INCREDIBLE! IT'S LIKE A BAD DREAM! THERE MUST BE AN EXPLANATION TO ALL THIS!
FUNNY THING ABOUT MR. MEEK.. FIRST HE CRIES FOR PROTECTION... AND THEN HE GOES OUT ALONE! OH, WELL.....
IF ONLY I COULD GET A GOOD LOOK AT THIS OGRE!
SIR!.. YOUR WISH WILL BE GRANTED!
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HIS LIFE, MARK TODD IS PARALYZED AT THE SIGHT BEFORE HIM!
LOOK AT ME AND DIE, OH MORTAL ONE!
HOLY CATS.. WHAT A FACE!
TODD LOSES HIS BALANCE AND FALLS!
NOW TO GET TO THE RADIO STATION AND BROADCAST MY DEMANDS TO THE OFFICIALS! I SHALL EXTRACT TRIBUTE FROM EVERY LIVING SOUL IN THIS TOWN!

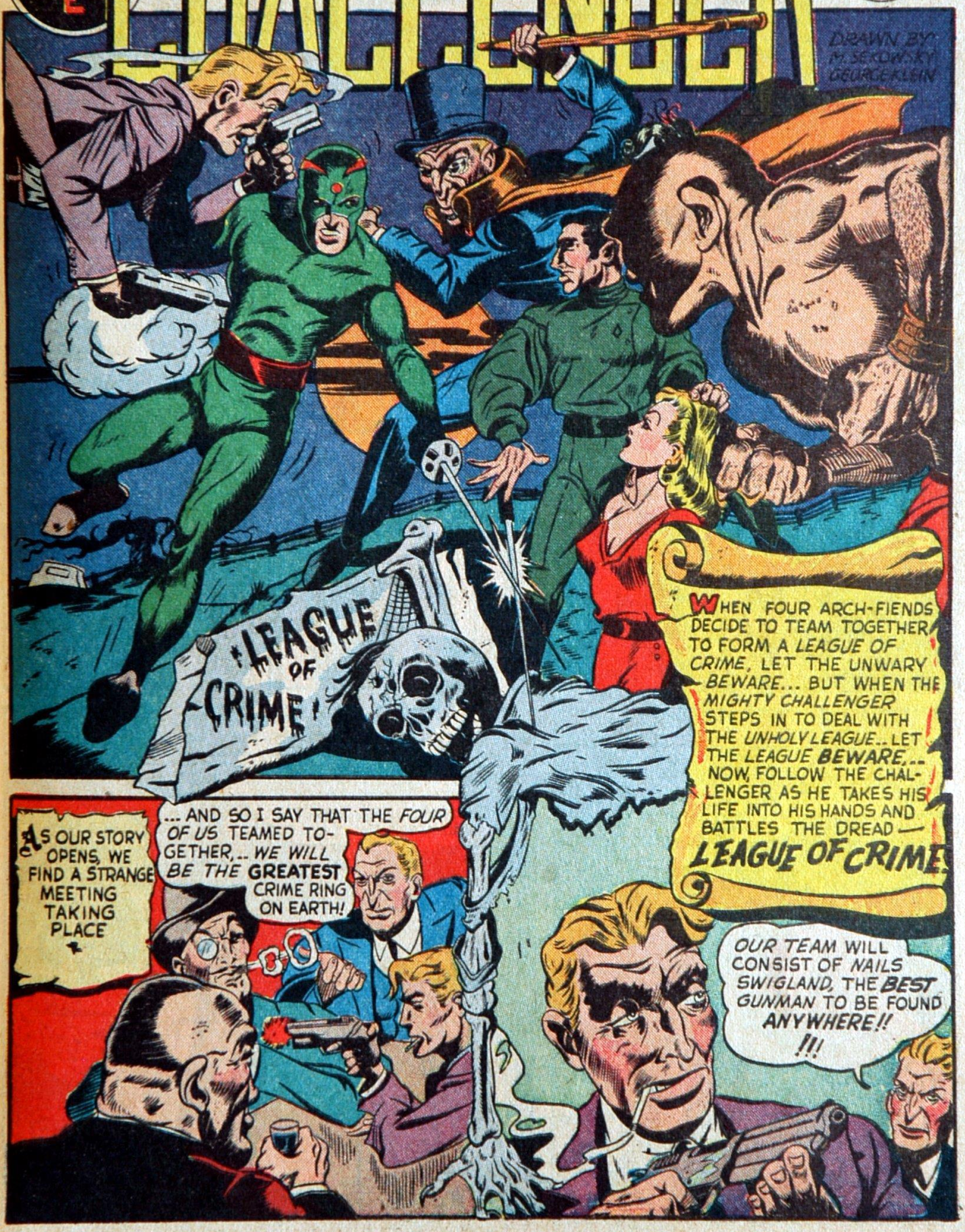

MARK TODD FINDS HIMSELF IN A VERY UNCOMFORTABLE POSITION!
NERTZ! "LOOK AT ME AND DIE, OH MORTAL ONE" WHERE DOES HE GET THAT JUNK? I'LL FIX HIS WAGON!
REMOVING HIS CLOTHES, MARK TODD BECOMES THE BLAZING SKULL, THE NEMESIS OF ALL CRIME!
NOW I'M GOING TO DO A LITTLE FACE-SCARING, MYSELF!
AT STATION N.B.X... ANTHONY J. JACK'S "BENEVOLENT WILL HOUR" IS IN PROGRESS... ONE OF THE UNFORTUNATES RECEIVES ADVICE...
WELL, MADAM, MY ADVICE TO YOU IS TO GO BACK TO YOUR HUSBAND AND SEVENTEEN CHILDREN! NEXT CASE!
THANK YOU.
BEGONE, KNAVE! THE "ILL WILL HOUR" WITH DR. FEAR TAKES OVER FROM HERE ON! LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE RADIO AUDIENCE... THIS IS YOUR PROBLEM!
I WANT A MILLION DOLLARS... WITHIN 24 HOURS, DEPOSITED TO MY ACCOUNT. DR. FEAR!
ANOTHER VISITOR ENTERS THE RADIO STATION... THE BLAZING SKULL!
OH YEAH!??
IF MY WISH IS NOT FULFILLED, THERE WILL BE MORE DEATHS... AND STILL MORE!
SEEING THE BLAZING SKULL, DR. FEAR THROWS THE MIKE AT HIS ENEMY.
THIS'LL TEACH YOU A LESSON, SKULL, YOU PROFESSIONAL MEDDLER!

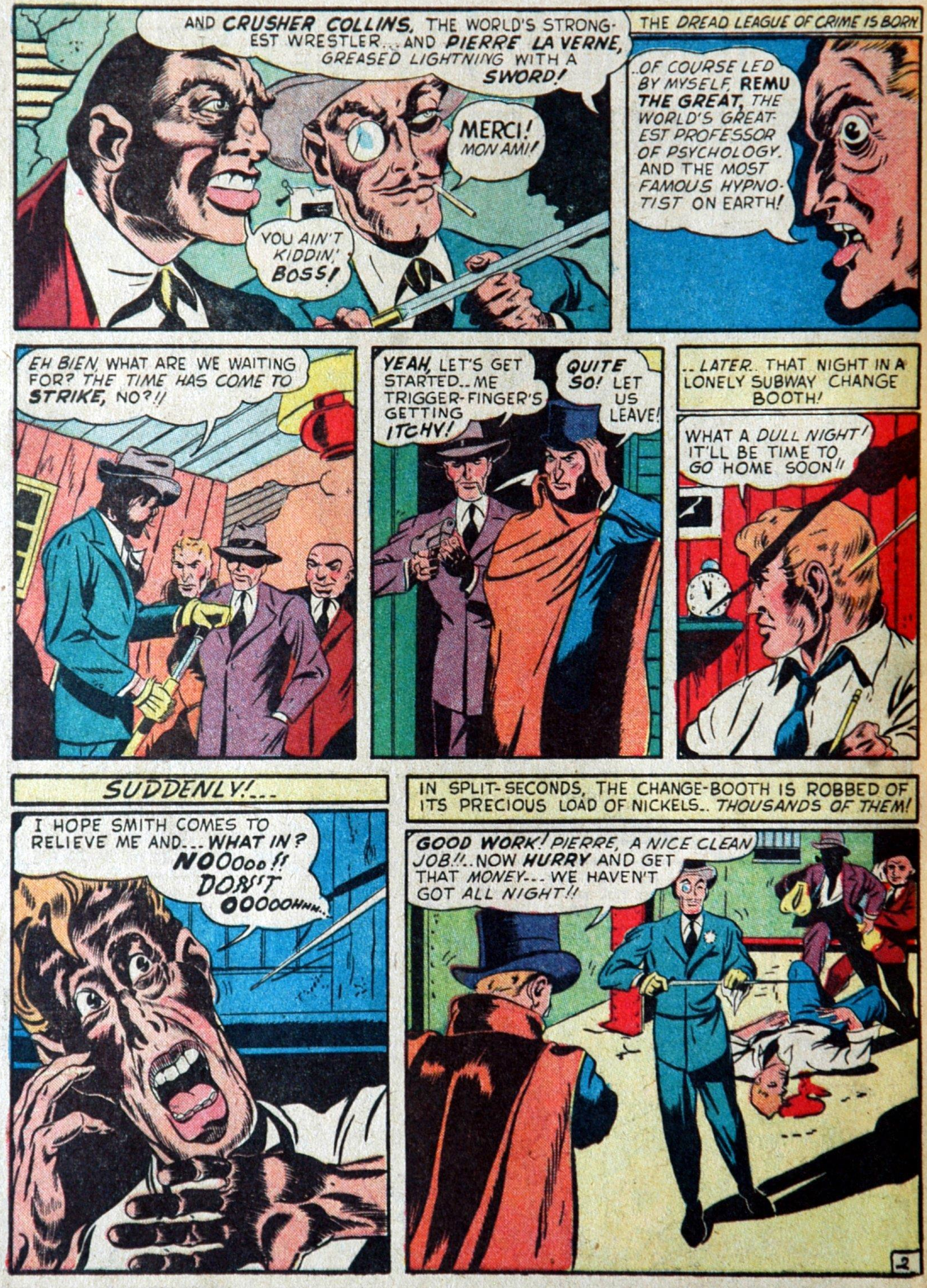

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE RADIO AUDIENCE... THIS IS LEM McGARTHEY, BRINGING YOU A BLOW-BY-BLOW DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGHT BETWEEN THE BLAZING SKULL AND DR. FEAR!
"DR. FEAR LEADS AND LANDS WITH BOTH FEET ON THE SKULL'S FACE IN A MOST UNCONVENTIONAL MANNER
"DR. FEAR SUDDENLY TURNS TAIL AND RUNS, WITH THE SKULL FOLLOWING IN HOT PURSUIT
"THIS IS THE MOST DRAMATIC FIGHT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! IT HAS PROCEEDED TO AN ADJOINING ROOF... A HISTORIC BATTLE BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL.
NBX
"LIKE A FLASH, THE SKULL RAINS BLOWS ON DR. FEAR! A DELUGE OF LEFTS AND RIGHTS... DR. FEAR IS GOING DOWN!.. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN...
"DR. FEAR IS DOWN! SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH HIS FACE....
"THE BLAZING SKULL HAS REMOVED A RUBBEROID MASK FROM DR. FEAR'S FACE.. DR FEAR IS A MORTAL, LIKE YOU AND I.... WAIT A MOMENT... THE SKULL IS MOTIONING TO ME.. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN HE SAYS DR FEAR WANTS TO SPEAK TO YOU!"
MY NAME IS AMBROSE Q. MEEK, I WAS TIRED OF SHOPKEEPING... MY CUSTOMERS WERE ALWAYS WRONG! I WANTED MONEY... I WANTED POWER!. I HAD A GOOD IDEA, BUT ALAS! I'VE FAILED! 'CRIME DOES NOT PAY!'
NOW REMEMBER... BOYS AND GIRLS.. 'CRIME NEVER PAYS,' AS MR. MEEK FOUND OUT TO HIS SORROW. WATCH FOR ME... I'LL BE SEEING YOU IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF MYSTIC COMICS!
THE END

THE CHALLENGER

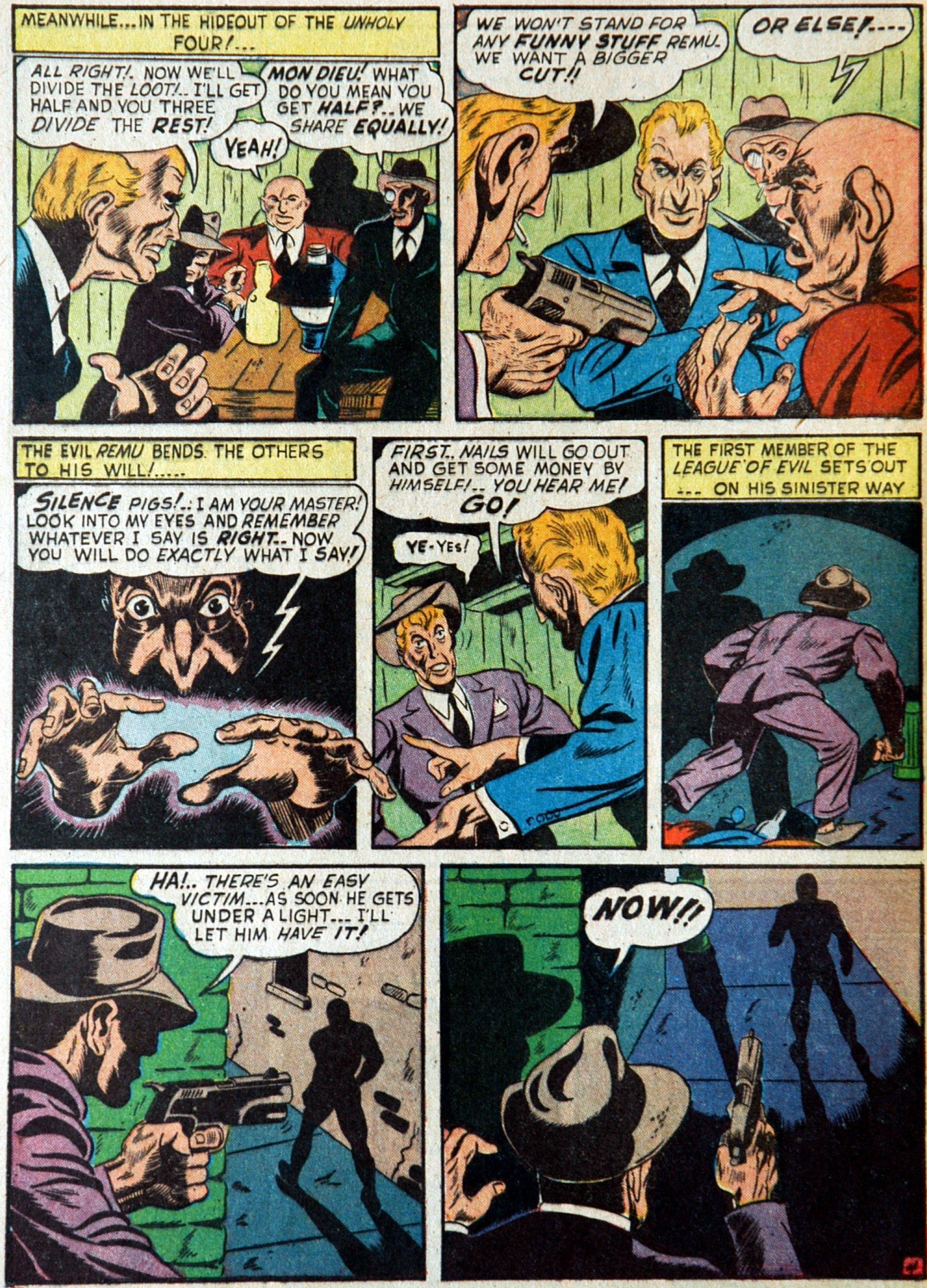
STORY by NEEL NATS

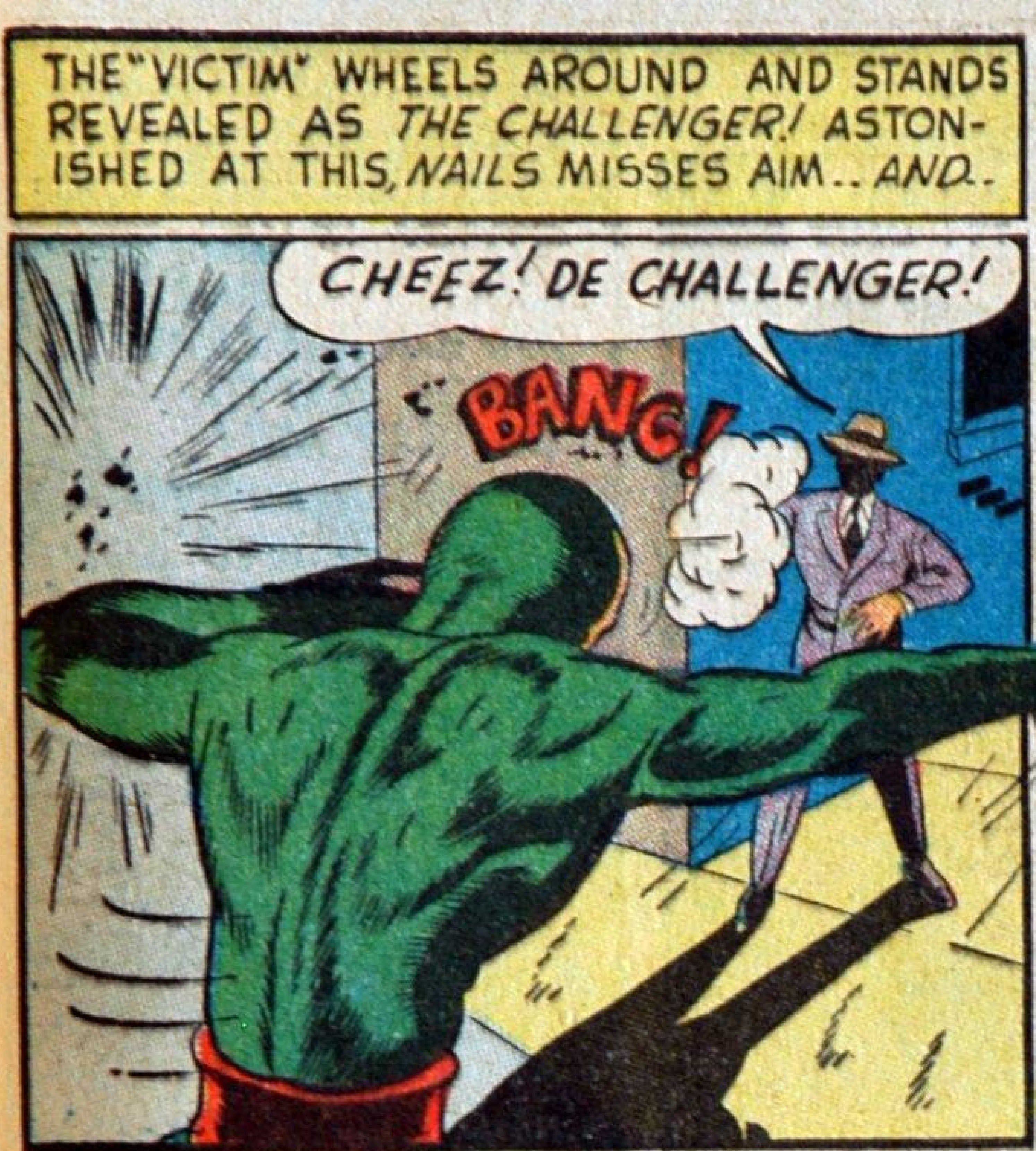
DRAWN BY: M. SEKOWSKY GEORGE KLEIN

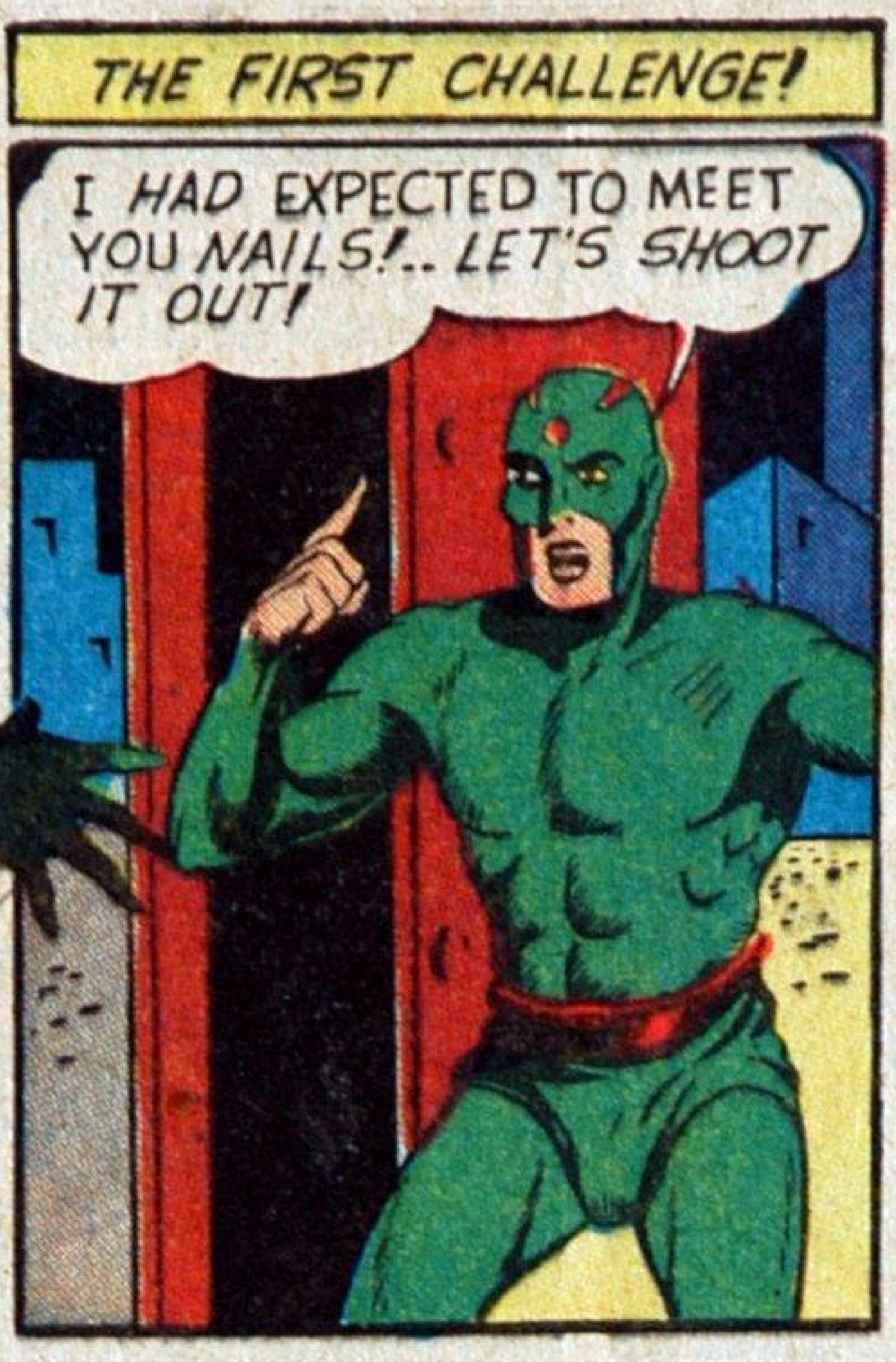

LEAGUE OF CRIME
WHEN FOUR ARCH-FIENDS DECIDE TO TEAM TOGETHER TO FORM A LEAGUE OF CRIME, LET THE UNWARY BEWARE... BUT WHEN THE MIGHTY CHALLENGER STEPS IN TO DEAL WITH THE UNHOLY LEAGUE.. LET THE LEAGUE BEWARE,-- NOW, FOLLOW THE CHALLENGER AS HE TAKES HIS LIFE INTO HIS HANDS AND BATTLES THE DREAD — LEAGUE OF CRIME!
AS OUR STORY OPENS, WE FIND A STRANGE MEETING TAKING PLACE
... AND SO I SAY THAT THE FOUR OF US TEAMED TOGETHER,.. WE WILL BE THE GREATEST CRIME RING ON EARTH!
OUR TEAM WILL CONSIST OF NAILS SWIGLAND, THE BEST GUNMAN TO BE FOUND ANYWHERE!! !!!

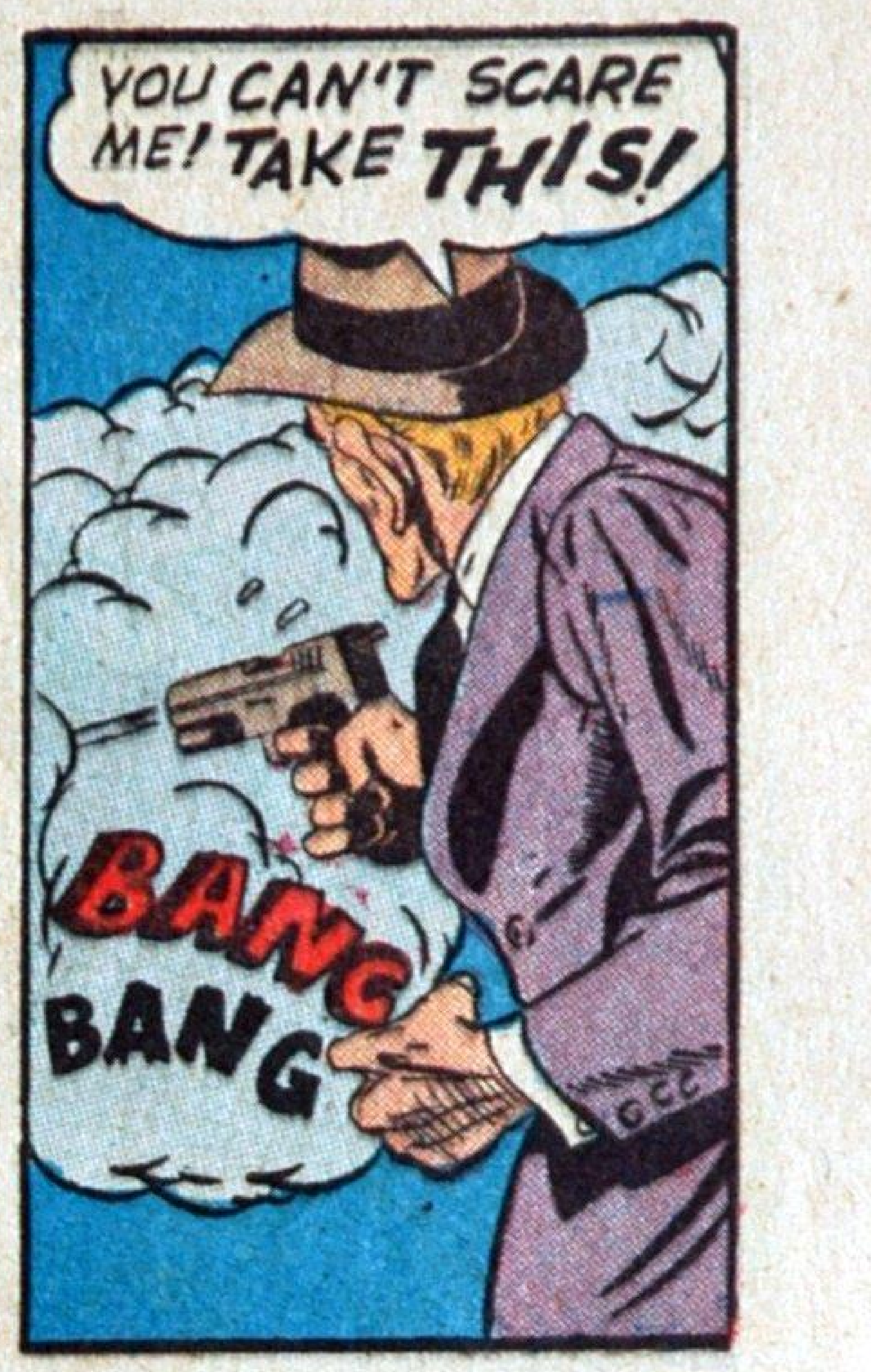

AND **CRUSHER COLLINS**, THE WORLD'S STRONGEST WRESTLER... AND **PIERRE LA VERNE**, *GREASED LIGHTNING* WITH A **SWORD!**
MERCI! *MON AMI!*
YOU AIN'T KIDDIN', **BOSS!**
THE *DREAD LEAGUE OF CRIME IS BORN*
..OF COURSE LED BY MYSELF, **REMU THE GREAT**, THE WORLD'S GREATEST PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY. AND THE MOST FAMOUS HYPNOTIST ON EARTH!
EH BIEN, WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR? *THE TIME HAS COME TO* **STRIKE**, NO?!!
YEAH, LET'S GET STARTED.. ME TRIGGER-FINGER'S GETTING **ITCHY!**
QUITE SO! LET US LEAVE!
..*LATER*.. THAT NIGHT IN A LONELY SUBWAY CHANGE BOOTH!
WHAT A *DULL NIGHT!* IT'LL BE TIME TO GO HOME SOON!!
SUDDENLY!...
I HOPE SMITH COMES TO RELIEVE ME AND... **WHAT IN?** **NOOooo!!** **DON'T** OOOOOHHH..
IN SPLIT-SECONDS, THE CHANGE-BOOTH IS ROBBED OF ITS PRECIOUS LOAD OF NICKELS.. *THOUSANDS OF THEM!*
GOOD WORK! *PIERRE, A NICE CLEAN JOB!!*.. NOW **HURRY** AND GET THAT *MONEY*... WE HAVEN'T GOT *ALL NIGHT!!*
2

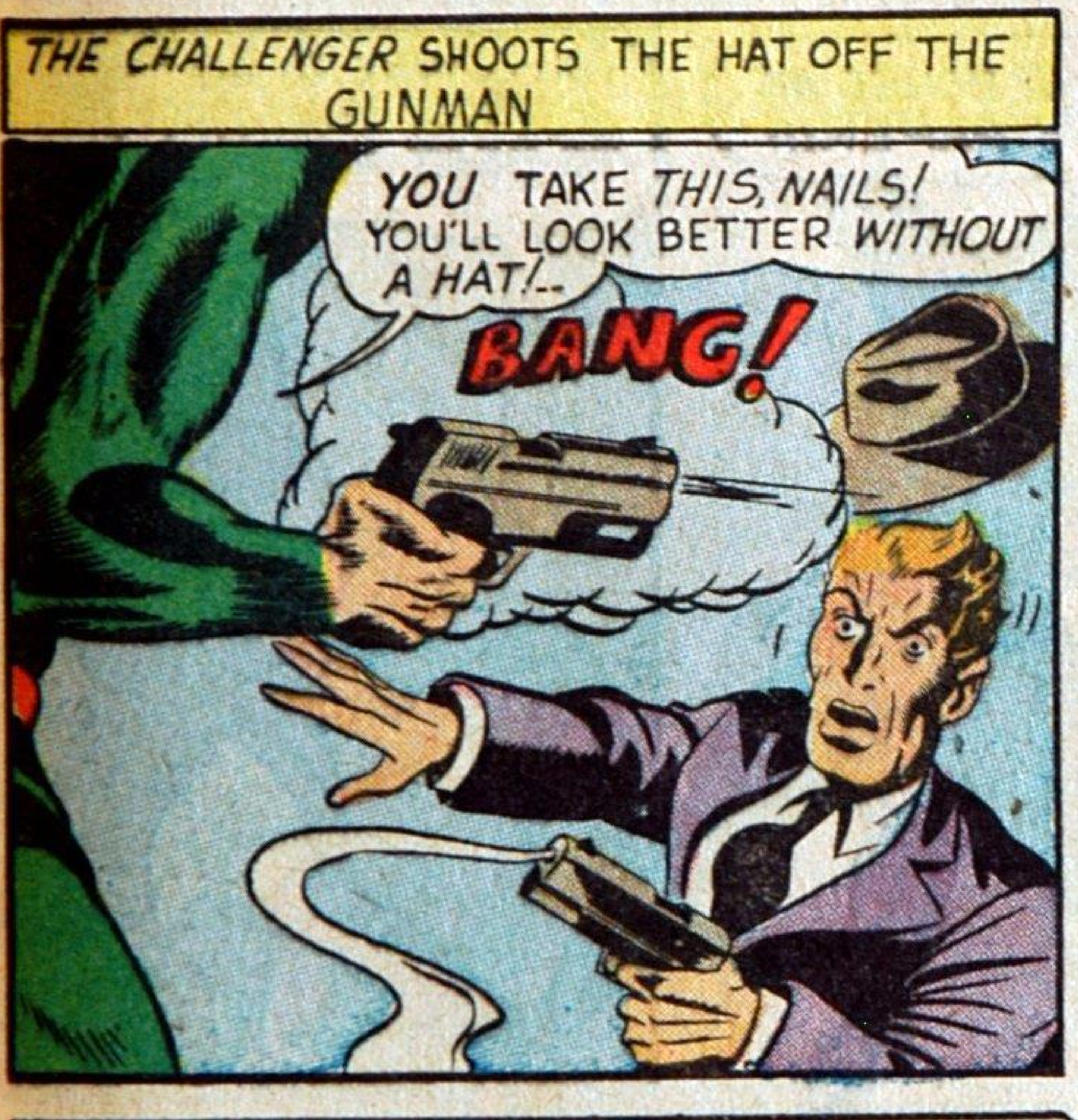
IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS A WAVE OF CRIME SWEEPS THE CITY AS MERCILESS AND TERRIBLE AS THE FIENDS WHO COMMIT IT!
DAILY NEWS
COP KILLER ON LOOSE
CRIME
BANK
ONE DAY, IN THE OFFICE OF THE POLICE COMMISSIONER!
YES, THE REASON I SUMMONED YOU IS THE POLICE ARE AT THE END OF THEIR ROPE.. THERE SEEMS TO BE NOTHING WE CAN DO TO HALT THIS UNHOLY LEAGUE OF CRIME!... YOU ARE OUR ONLY HOPE!...
THE MIGHTY CHALLENGER MAKES A VOW!
I SHALL TRACK DOWN AND DESTROY THE LEAGUE OF CRIME, SIR!.. I PROMISE IT!
THE MIGHTY CRIME-FIGHTER BEGINS A RELENTLESS HUNT FOR THE EVIL HORDE!

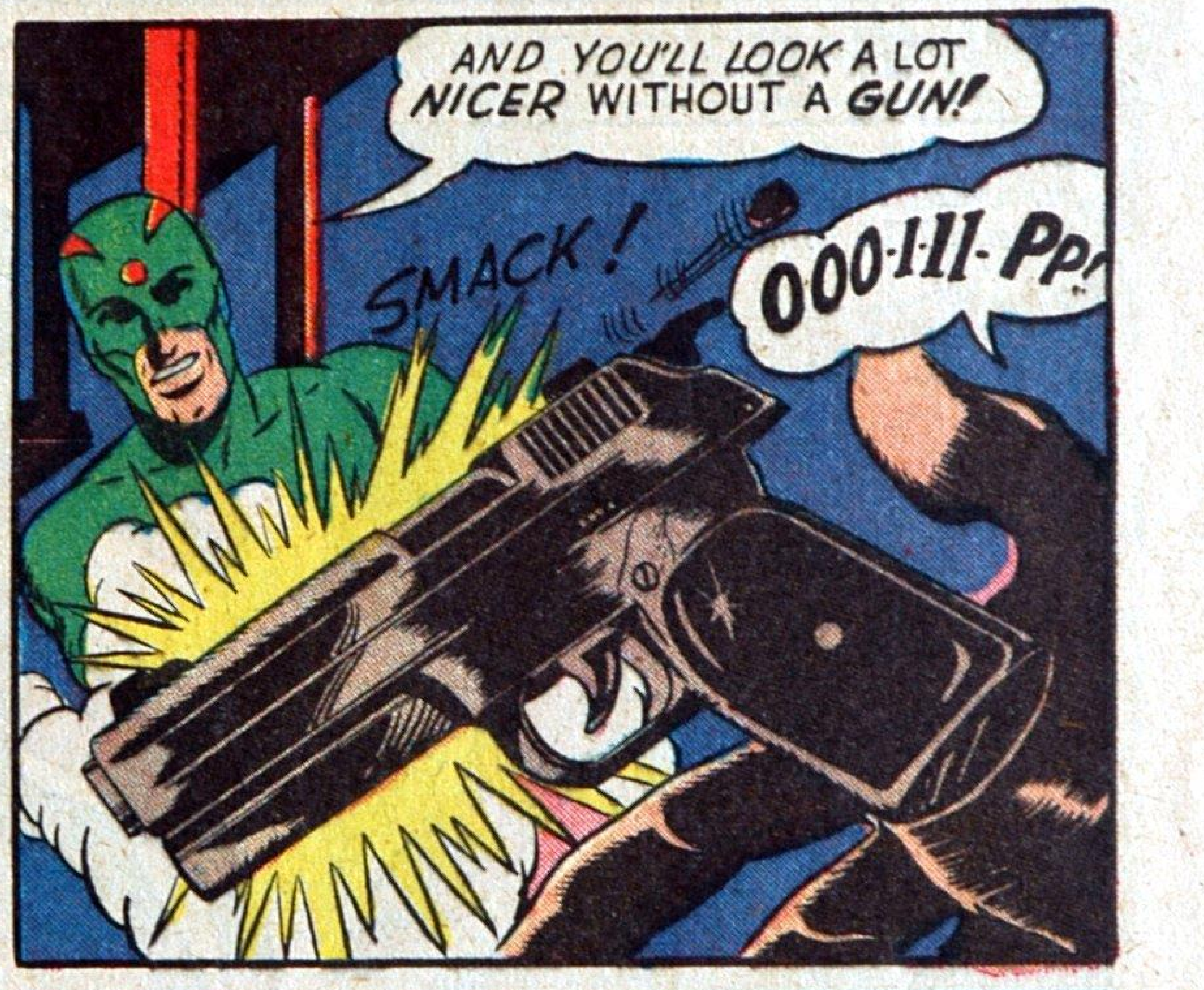

MEANWHILE... IN THE HIDEOUT OF THE *UNHOLY* FOUR!...
ALL *RIGHT*!. NOW WE'LL DIVIDE THE *LOOT*!.. I'LL GET HALF AND YOU THREE *DIVIDE* THE **REST**!
MON DIEU! WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU GET **HALF?**.. WE *SHARE* **EQUALLY!**
YEAH!
WE WON'T STAND FOR ANY **FUNNY STUFF** REMU. WE WANT A BIGGER **CUT!!**
OR ELSE!....
THE EVIL *REMU* BENDS THE OTHERS TO HIS WILL!.....
SILENCE PIGS!.. I AM *YOUR MASTER!* LOOK INTO MY EYES AND *REMEMBER* WHATEVER I SAY IS *RIGHT*.. NOW YOU WILL DO *EXACTLY* WHAT I *SAY!*
FIRST.. *NAILS* WILL GO OUT AND GET SOME MONEY BY *HIMSELF!*.. *YOU HEAR ME!* **GO!**
YE-YES!
THE FIRST MEMBER OF THE *LEAGUE OF EVIL* SETS OUT ... ON HIS SINISTER WAY
HA!.. THERE'S AN EASY VICTIM... AS SOON HE GETS UNDER A LIGHT... I'LL LET HIM *HAVE IT!*
NOW!!
4

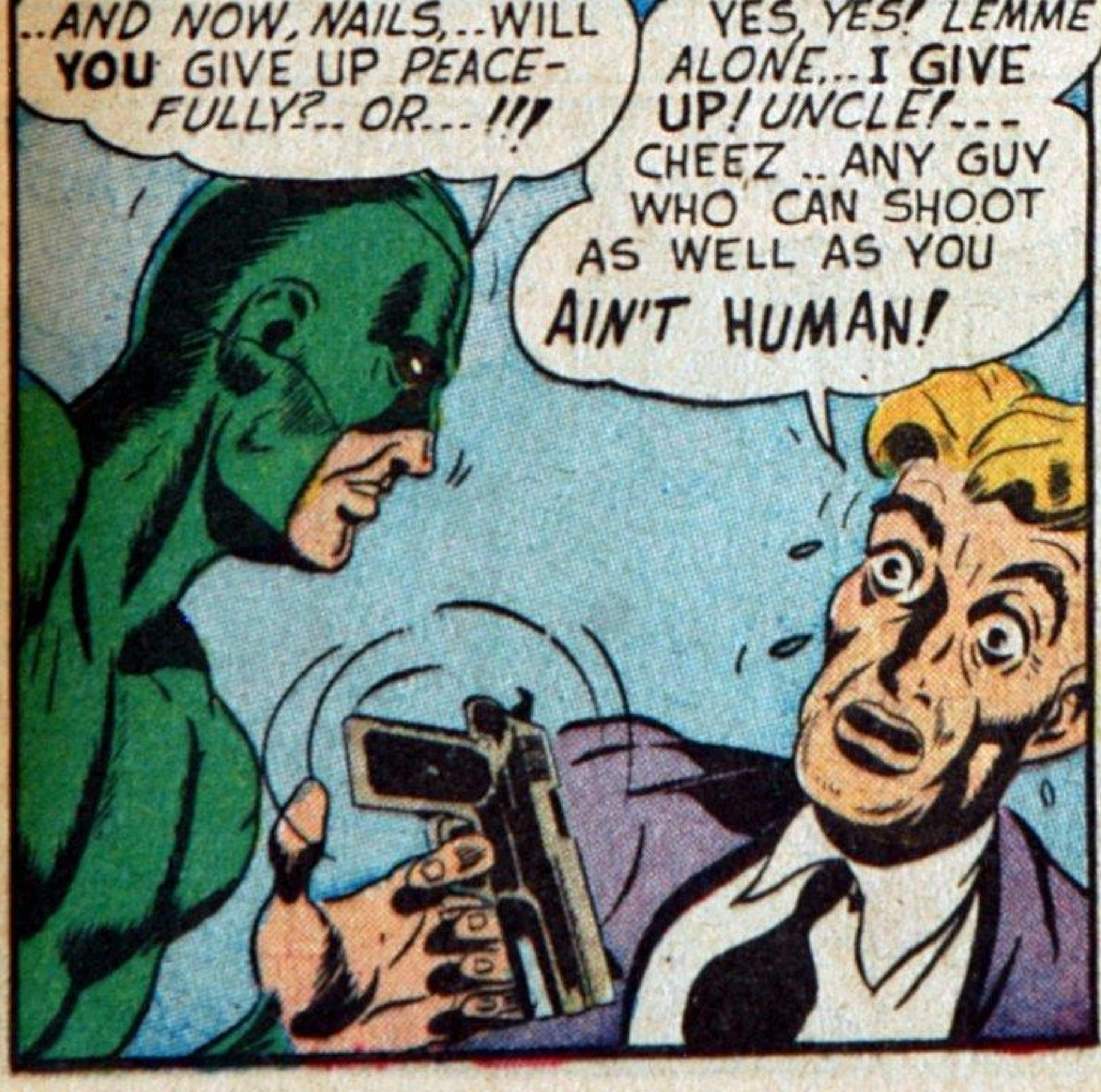

THE "VICTIM" WHEELS AROUND AND STANDS REVEALED AS *THE CHALLENGER!* ASTONISHED AT THIS, *NAILS* MISSES AIM.. AND..
CHEEZ! DE CHALLENGER!
BANG!

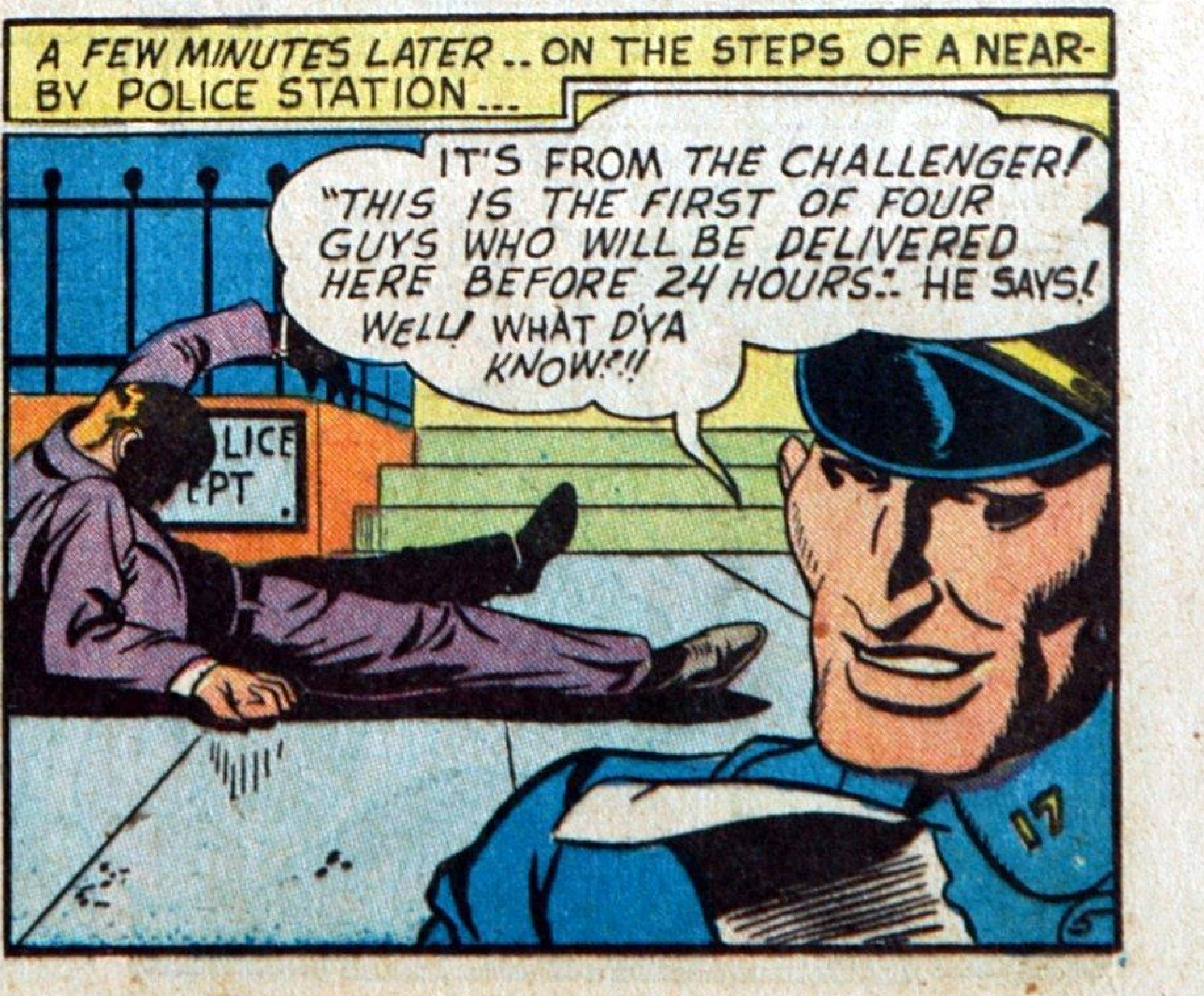

THE FIRST CHALLENGE!
I HAD EXPECTED TO MEET YOU *NAILS!*.. *LET'S SHOOT IT OUT!*

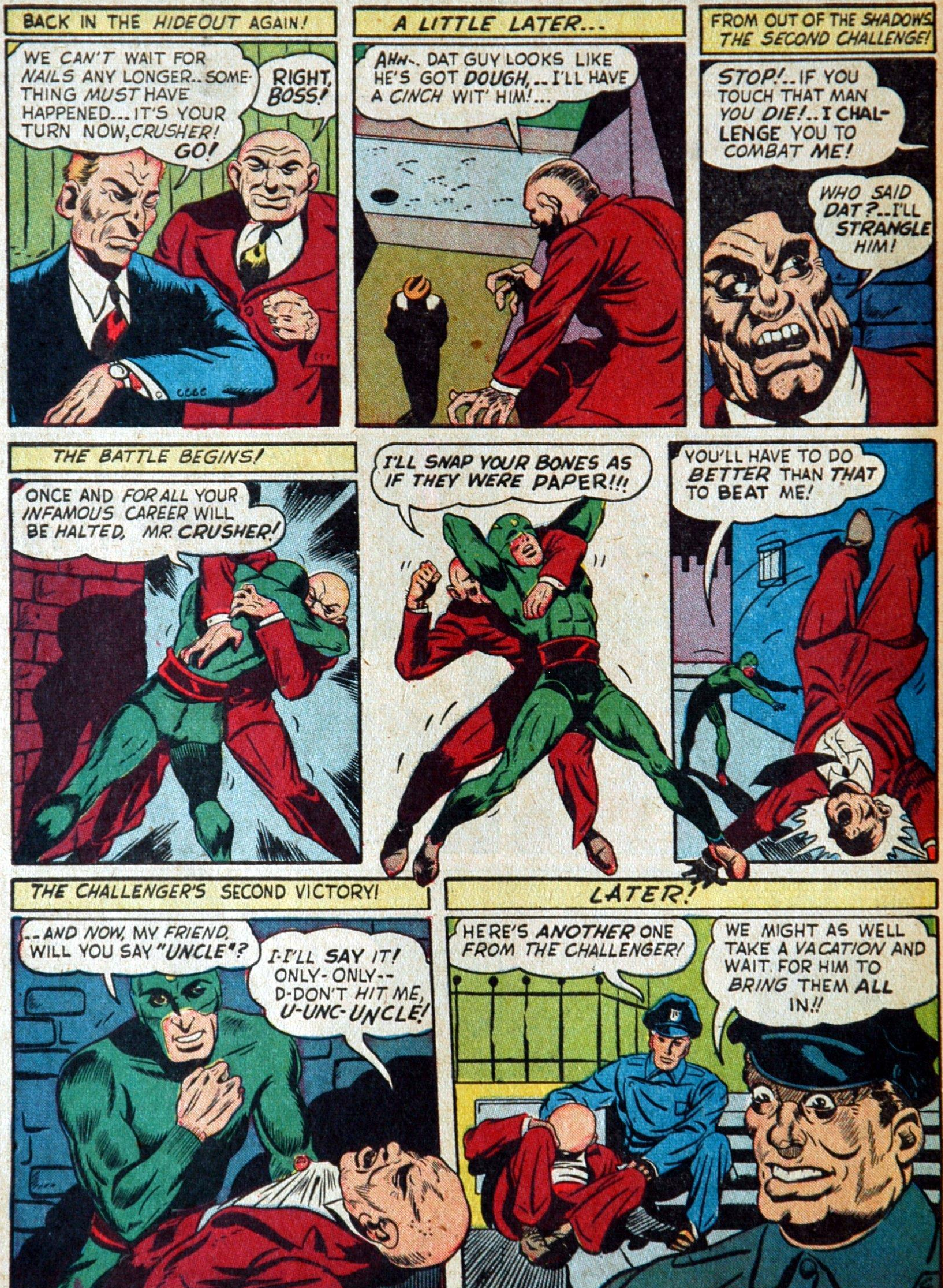

YOU **CAN'T SCARE** ME! **TAKE THIS!**
BANG
BANG

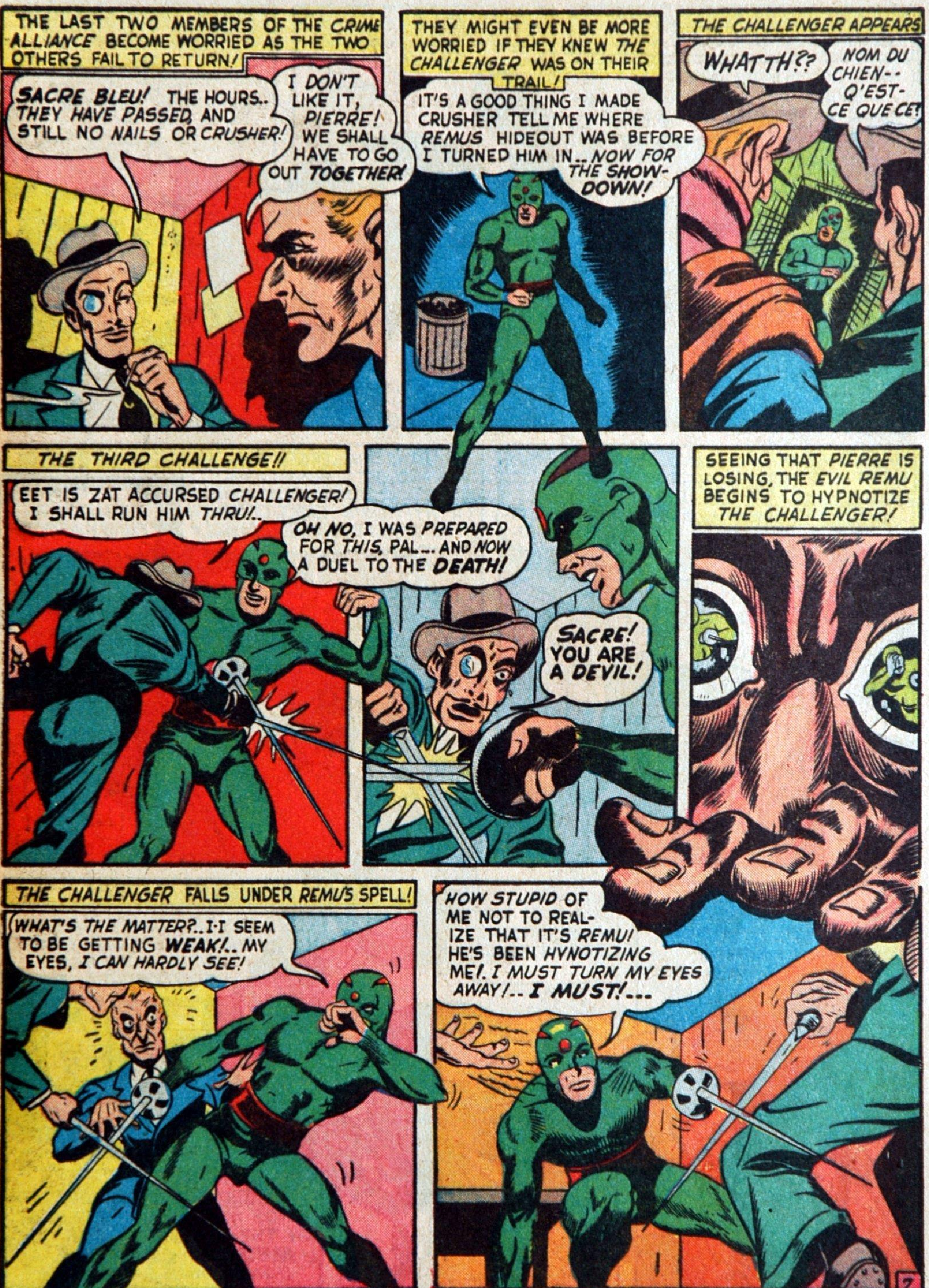

THE CHALLENGER SHOOTS THE HAT OFF THE GUNMAN
YOU TAKE *THIS*, NAILS! YOU'LL LOOK BETTER *WITHOUT* A HAT!..
BANG!

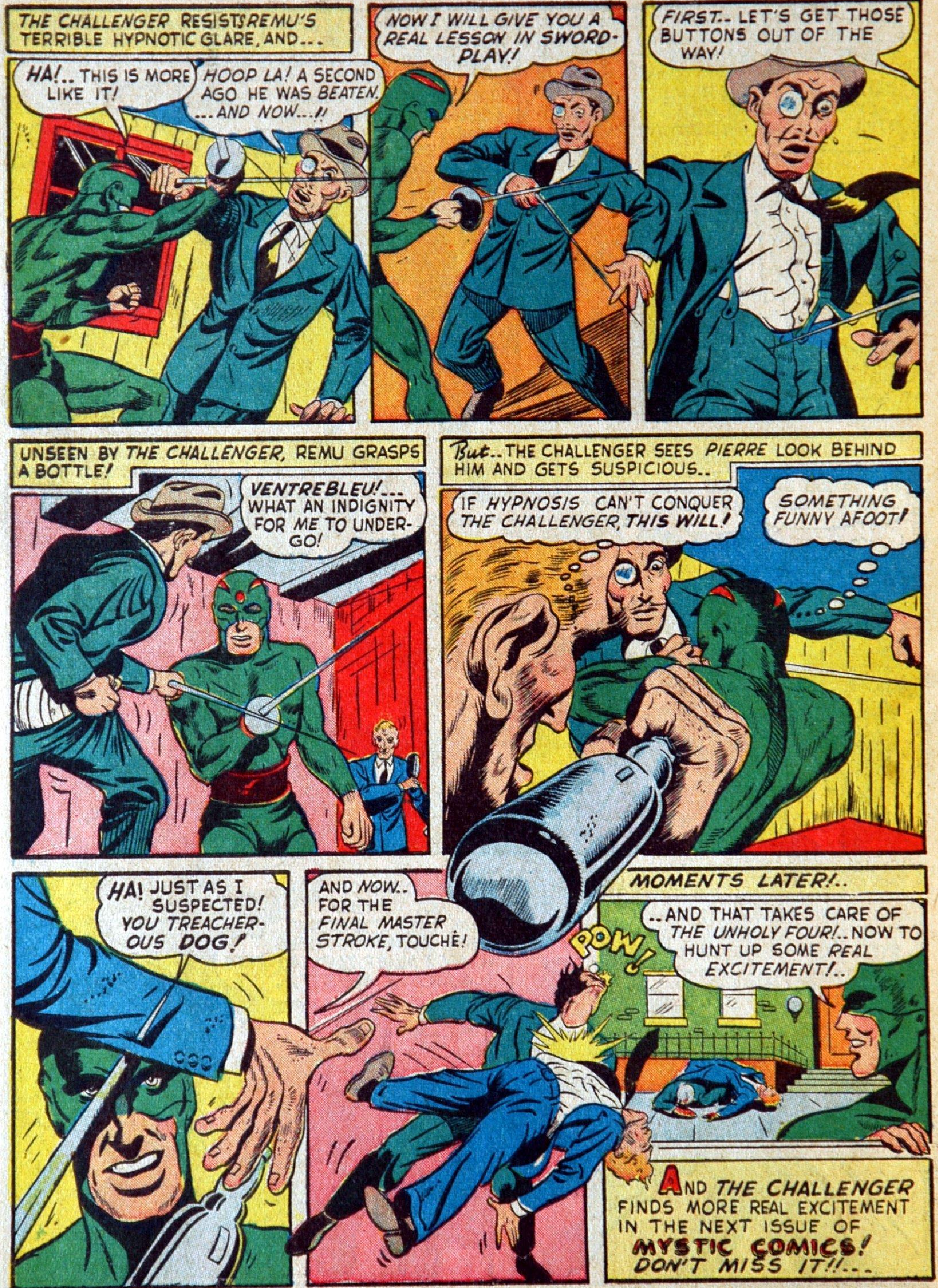

AND YOU'LL LOOK A LOT **NICER** WITHOUT A **GUN!**
SMACK!
OOO-I-II- PP!

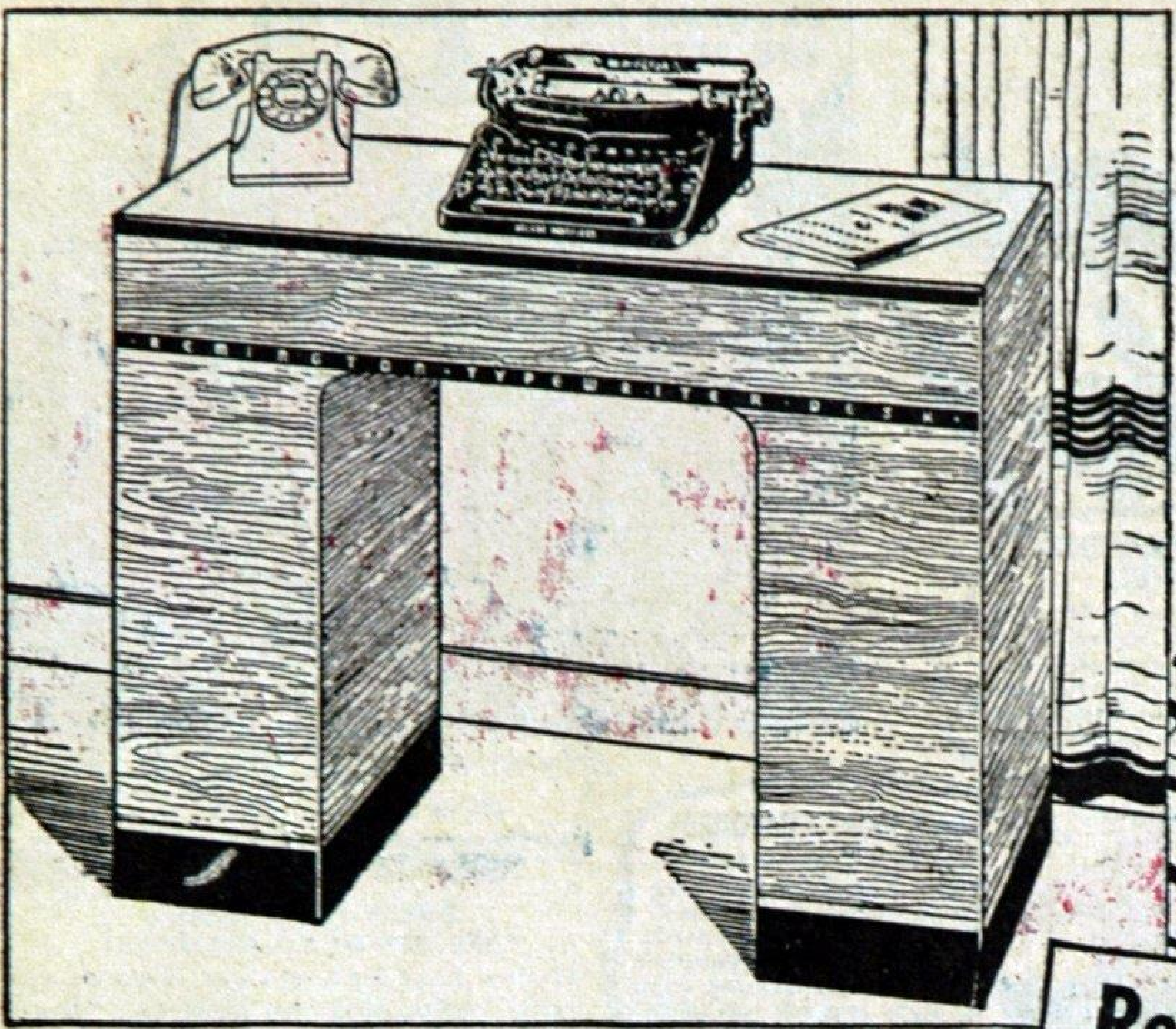

..*AND NOW, NAILS*,..WILL **YOU** GIVE UP *PEACEFULLY?*.. OR... !!!
YES, *YES!* LEMME ALONE... **I GIVE UP!** *UNCLE!*--- CHEEZ .. ANY GUY WHO CAN SHOOT AS WELL AS YOU **AIN'T HUMAN!**


A FEW MINUTES LATER .. ON THE STEPS OF A NEARBY POLICE STATION...
IT'S FROM *THE CHALLENGER!* *"THIS IS THE FIRST OF FOUR GUYS WHO WILL BE DELIVERED HERE BEFORE 24 HOURS!"* HE SAYS! *WELL! WHAT D'YA KNOW!*!!
POLICE DEPT
17


BACK IN THE HIDEOUT AGAIN!
WE CAN'T WAIT FOR NAILS ANY LONGER.. SOMETHING MUST HAVE HAPPENED... IT'S YOUR TURN NOW, CRUSHER! GO!
RIGHT, BOSS!
A LITTLE LATER...
AHH-. DAT GUY LOOKS LIKE HE'S GOT DOUGH,.. I'LL HAVE A CINCH WIT' HIM!...
FROM OUT OF THE SHADOWS. THE SECOND CHALLENGE!
STOP!.. IF YOU TOUCH THAT MAN YOU DIE!.. I CHALLENGE YOU TO COMBAT ME!
WHO SAID DAT?..I'LL STRANGLE HIM!
THE BATTLE BEGINS!
ONCE AND FOR ALL YOUR INFAMOUS CAREER WILL BE HALTED, MR. CRUSHER!
I'LL SNAP YOUR BONES AS IF THEY WERE PAPER!!!
YOU'LL HAVE TO DO BETTER THAN THAT TO BEAT ME!
THE CHALLENGER'S SECOND VICTORY!
..AND NOW, MY FRIEND, WILL YOU SAY "UNCLE"?
I-I'LL SAY IT! ONLY- ONLY-- D-DON'T HIT ME, U-UNC-UNCLE!
LATER!
HERE'S ANOTHER ONE FROM THE CHALLENGER!
WE MIGHT AS WELL TAKE A VACATION AND WAIT FOR HIM TO BRING THEM ALL IN!!


THE LAST TWO MEMBERS OF THE *CRIME ALLIANCE* BECOME WORRIED AS THE TWO OTHERS FAIL TO RETURN!
SACRE BLEU! THE HOURS.. THEY HAVE *PASSED*, AND STILL NO *NAILS* OR *CRUSHER!*
I *DON'T* LIKE IT, *PIERRE!* WE SHALL HAVE TO GO OUT ***TOGETHER!***
THEY MIGHT EVEN BE MORE WORRIED IF THEY KNEW *THE CHALLENGER* WAS ON THEIR TRAIL!
IT'S A GOOD THING I MADE CRUSHER TELL ME WHERE *REMUS* HIDEOUT WAS BEFORE I TURNED HIM IN.. *NOW FOR THE SHOW-DOWN!*
THE CHALLENGER APPEARS
WHATTH??
NOM DU CHIEN-- Q'EST-CE QUE CE!
THE THIRD CHALLENGE!!
EET IS ZAT ACCURSED *CHALLENGER!* I SHALL RUN HIM *THRU!..*
OH NO, I WAS *PREPARED* FOR *THIS,* PAL... AND *NOW* A DUEL TO THE ***DEATH!***
SACRE! YOU ARE A ***DEVIL!***
SEEING THAT *PIERRE* IS LOSING, THE *EVIL REMU* BEGINS TO HYPNOTIZE *THE CHALLENGER!*
THE CHALLENGER FALLS UNDER *REMU'S* SPELL!
WHAT'S THE MATTER?..I-I SEEM TO BE GETTING ***WEAK!***.. MY EYES, *I CAN HARDLY SEE!*
HOW STUPID OF ME NOT TO REALIZE THAT IT'S *REMU!* HE'S BEEN *HYNOTIZING ME!. I MUST TURN MY EYES AWAY!*.. ***I MUST!...***


THE CHALLENGER RESISTS REMU'S TERRIBLE HYPNOTIC GLARE, AND...
HA!.. THIS IS MORE LIKE IT!
HOOP LA! A SECOND AGO HE WAS BEATEN. ...AND NOW...!!
NOW I WILL GIVE YOU A REAL LESSON IN SWORD-PLAY!
FIRST.. LET'S GET THOSE BUTTONS OUT OF THE WAY!
UNSEEN BY THE CHALLENGER, REMU GRASPS A BOTTLE!
VENTREBLEU!... WHAT AN INDIGNITY FOR ME TO UNDERGO!
But.. THE CHALLENGER SEES PIERRE LOOK BEHIND HIM AND GETS SUSPICIOUS..
IF HYPNOSIS CAN'T CONQUER THE CHALLENGER, THIS WILL!
SOMETHING FUNNY AFOOT!
HA! JUST AS I SUSPECTED! YOU TREACHEROUS DOG!
AND NOW.. FOR THE FINAL MASTER STROKE, TOUCHÉ!
POW!
MOMENTS LATER!..
..AND THAT TAKES CARE OF THE UNHOLY FOUR!.. NOW TO HUNT UP SOME REAL EXCITEMENT!..
AND THE CHALLENGER FINDS MORE REAL EXCITEMENT IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF MYSTIC COMICS! DON'T MISS IT!!...



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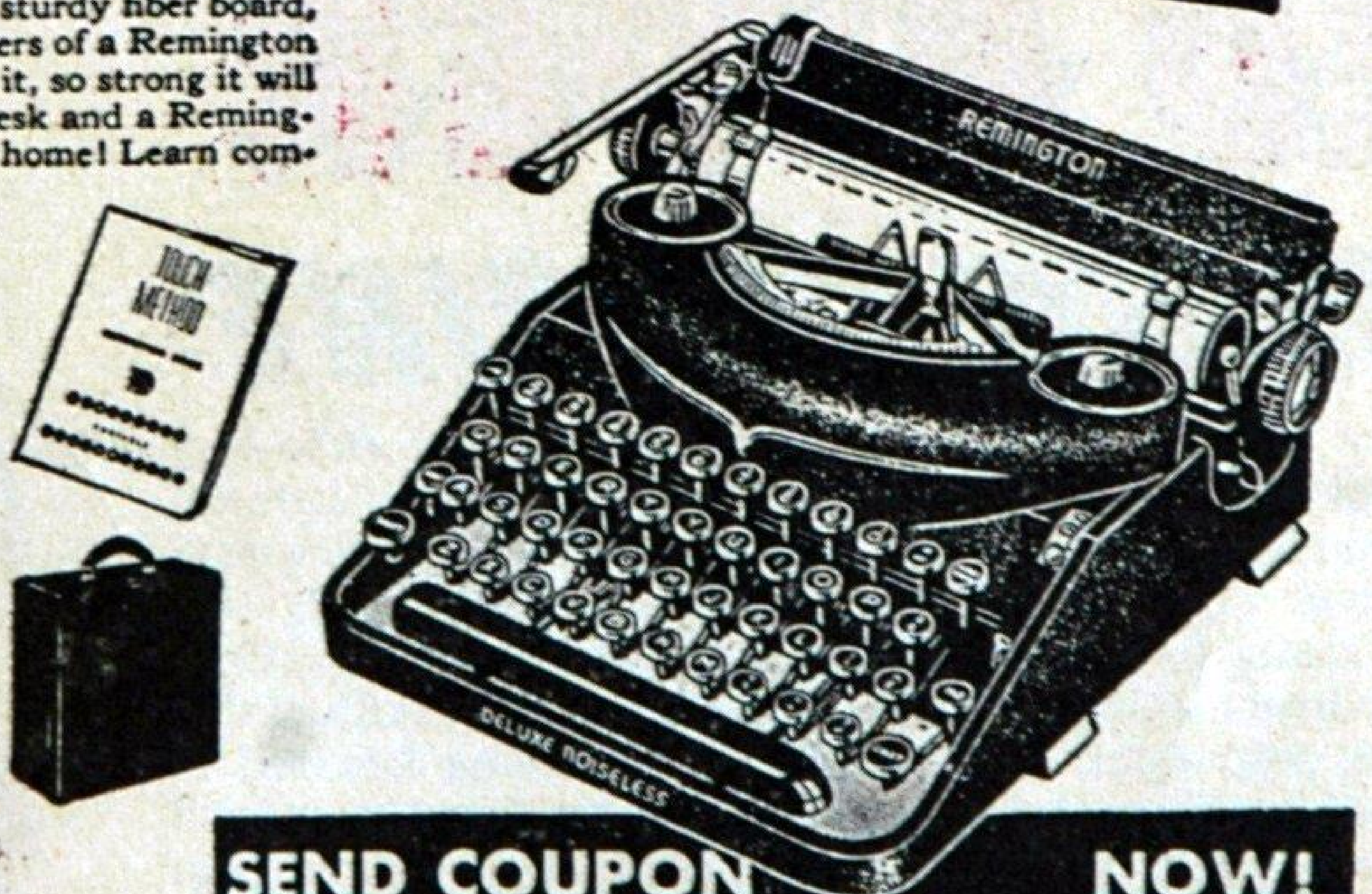

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FRED HARMAN

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LIGHTNING-LOADER INVENTION! Twist th' magazine—pour in 1000 shot in 20 seconds—then shoot 1000 times without reloading once!
GOLDEN-BANDED BARREL! Those glittery golden-colored bands 'round muzzle an' fore-piece look mighty purty... like th' gold I used to prospect for out West. You'll be proud of 'em!
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MY BRAND ON STOCK! Looks just like a real Cowboy Carbine. I'm proud to have my name an' picture of me, with my horse "Thunder," branded on th' stock!
HANGUM GUN ON SADDLE WITH LEATHER THONG. ME BETCHUM BOYS LIKE SWIVEL CARBINE RING, TOO!
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